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Servicemembers confined to Hansen brig over Feb. 4 death

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Ray
Charles



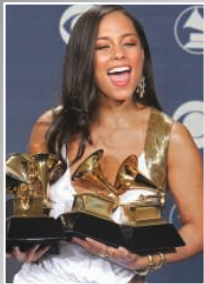
Kanye West



Billie Joe Armstrong, Mike Dirnt and Tre Cool of Green Day

Ray Charles' 'Genius' is rewarded at Grammys

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Alicia Keys

KANYE WEST, GREEN DAY AND ALICIA KEYS PHOTOS: AF

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Al-Qaida trial: Eleven suspected members of the al-Qaida terror network went on trial Monday in Yemen, accused of planning attacks there and in other countries.

The prosecution says the suspects — all Yemeni men — confessed to receiving military training in Afghanistan and plotting attacks against Americans and other Westerners in Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iraq.

Pope's illness: Pope John Paul II, recovered from the flu and respiratory problems, is spending this week in a retreat for his traditional Lenten period of spiritual reflection.

During the period of prayer at the Vatican — which was scheduled before the pontiff fell ill — all audiences are suspended, including the pontiff's customary Wednesday public audience.

Israeli body handover: The Israeli military delivered the bodies of 15 militants to the Palestinians for burial Monday, a handover celebrated in Gaza as the first real achievement of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas, who is trying to prevent fierce militants from straying from a fragile truce. This latest dividend of improved relations between Israel and the Palestinians came as Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced that he would ask the Cabinet next week to formally serve notice of the government's intention to withdraw from Gaza.

Pakistan nuclear scandal: Britain has full confidence in Pakistan's handling of the nuclear proliferation scandal centered on its disgraced top scientist A.Q. Khan, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Monday.

Straw made the comments after wide-ranging talks in Islamabad on Monday with President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Foreign Minister Khurshheed Kasuri at the start of a three-country South Asian tour.

Pakistan rain deaths: Authorities in Pakistan's northwest on Monday reported 80 more fatalities from a week of heavy rain and snow, pushing the nationwide death toll from the harsh winter weather to more than 430 as relief efforts continued.

The emergency relief department in North West Frontier Province said that roads to badly affected areas remained blocked by landslides and snow.

Nepal political maneuvers: Nepal's king consolidated his power Monday by appointing two former prime ministers who are



MATTHEW SCHWARTZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

On tour: Chief Master-at-Arms Joseph Mortimer leads 17 members and guests of the Yokosuka Atsugi Japanese American Friendship Club through a gate at Yokohama's Chinatown during a tour Saturday. Mortimer, with Naval Air Facility Atsugi's Security Department, a member of the club since 1995, now is its president.

seen as unlikely to challenge his rule to posts in his Cabinet.

Kritinidhi Bisfi, 79, and Tulsi Giri, 78, were named vice chairmen of the 10-member Cabinet installed by King Gyanendra. Both served as prime ministers before 1990 when Nepal was under an absolute monarchy, and are therefore viewed as sympathetic to the king.

States

Robert Blake trial: With no fingerprints, DNA evidence or murder weapon that can be linked to Robert Blake, his Los Angeles murder trial has largely come down to the word of three men who say the actor tried to cast them as real-life hit men.

Two are retired stunt men who have had problems with drugs and the law. The third is a street drug-turned-minister.

Michael Jackson trial: Attorneys on both sides of pop star Michael Jackson's child-molestation trial now face the delicate task of selecting 20 jurors from a total of 250 people who filled out questionnaires.

After a weeklong delay, jury selection was expected to resume Monday with prosecutors and defense attorneys trying to thin the list to 12 panelists and eight alternates.

War on terrorism

Taliban remnants: Security forces de-

tained a suspected Taliban commander in central Afghanistan after finding him hiding in a well and have handed him over to the U.S. military, an official said Monday.

Mullah Mohammed Naem surrendered Friday after Afghan troops surrounded the house he was in, Gov. Jan Mohammed Khan said. Naem was responsible for several attacks on American and Afghan troops in the region, Khan claimed.

Military

Missile defense test: A test of the national missile defense system failed Monday when an interceptor missile did not launch from its island base in the Pacific Ocean, the military said. It was the second failure in months for the experimental program.

A statement from the Missile Defense Agency said the cause of the failure was under investigation.

Boeing investigation: The Pentagon is investigating eight additional Air Force contracts to determine whether they were manipulated or influenced illegally by Darleen Druyan, a former Air Force official who was convicted last year of giving Boeing Co. special treatment on a tanker lease deal.

The eight contracts range in value from \$42 million to \$1.5 billion and their total value is about \$3 billion, according to a summary provided by the Pentagon on Monday.

Stories from The Associated Press

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3 held pending charges in sailor's death

By DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — Three servicemembers are being held in the death of a Navy dental technician whose body was found Feb. 4 on Camp Hansen.

Few details are being released in the case, which the Naval Criminal Investigative Service now is handling as a possible homicide, officials have confirmed.

The three, whose names were not released, were from 3rd Dental Battalion, said 1st Lt. Eric Tausch, a Marine spokesman. They're confined at the Camp Hansen

NCIS investigating Camp Hansen case as suspected homicide

on Brig pending charges in connection with the death of Seaman Adam J. Palecco, 21, of Hackettstown, N.J.

Palecco, the son of Bonnie and Raymond Palecco of Hackettstown, also was assigned to the 3rd Dental Battalion, Tausch said.

According to the Easton Express-Times, Palecco's acquaintances knew the 2002 Hackettstown High School graduate as being a "friendly, respectful young man."

His body was discovered at 12:12 a.m.

and he was pronounced dead at the scene, according to a Marine spokesman. An autopsy later was held at the U.S. Naval Hospital on Camp Lester.

The nature of his wounds and all other details of the investigation were being withheld by Marine officials Monday in order to "preserve the integrity of the investigation," Tausch said.

"Law enforcement personnel from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Marine Corps Base Camp S.D. Butler

Provost Marshal's Office apprehended three U.S. servicemembers Saturday morning in connection with the suspected homicide," Tausch said.

"NCIS continues to investigate the incident," he said.

Persons with information regarding the case are asked to call the NCIS tip line at 645-0779, or e-mail investigators at okl-postee@ncis.navy.mil.

E-mail David Allen at: allen@pstrides.com



GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Navy photographer Petty Officer 1st Class Josh Phelps, leading petty officer at Fleet Imaging Facility Pacific, Sasebo Naval Base, adjusts a studio light he and his staff use to photograph portraits.

Navy to merge communications-related jobs

By GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Some Fleet Imaging Facility Pacific services are being curtailed as the Navy prepares to close individual departments across the Pacific by November and merge them into one office.

Chief Petty Officer Spike Call, officer-in-charge of the Naval Facility Atsugi FIFP, said the Navy's FIFP departments at Atsugi, Sasebo, Misawa Air Base, Yokosuka Naval Base and Kadema Air Base on Okinawa are shutting down this year.

This is in part because all Navy media ratings — photographer (PH), journalist (JO), lithographer (LI) and draftsman (DM) — soon will be phased out, said Petty Officer 1st Class Josh Phelps, supervising petty officer at Fleet Imaging Facility Pacific, Sasebo. The four will become what Navy officials plan to call "mass communications specialist," or MC.

"The ratings merge very soon," Call said, "but I'm not certain of the specific date. So, what they are doing here — and this is a Navy move worldwide, not just in the Pacific — is making one unit

Tweaking services

To prepare for the end, on Jan. 1 the Fleet Imaging Facilities tweaked their menu of services:

- Official roster portraits no longer are supported except at the flag, unit commander, executive officer and command master chief petty officer levels, with no exceptions.
- Official full-length photos required for boards or service records will continue until the current inventory of supplies is depleted.

■ Passport, visa and isolated personnel record (ISOPREP) photos will continue until the current inventory of supplies is depleted.

■ Immigration and naturalization photos are not supported.

■ Award ceremonies, presentations, frocking, host nation gift exchanges and medal presentations no longer are supported.

■ Command group photos no longer are supported unless determined to have historical value in the judgment of the imaging facility's leadership.

■ Change-of-command ceremonies, retirements, commissioning and re-enlistment events will be covered until the offices close in November.

■ Photographic support for Naval Criminal Investigative Service and Base Security requests will be handled as requested.

— Stars and Stripes

out of many units."

The closure and realignment of imaging centers is an order from Naval Air Forces, Pacific in San Diego. The merged functions will be performed at one central location. In Japan, Call said, "it will be Fleet Public Affairs Center at Yokosuka. The center will be staffed by sailors with mass communica-

tions specialist classifications."

Additional funding already has been halted about nine months before the imaging facilities close.

Among services halted as of Jan. 1, he said: immigration and naturalization photos, award ceremonies, frockings and medal presentations. Official roster portraits are supported only at upper

levels. Call also coordinates imaging facilities in mainland Japan and Okinawa.

"We are doing this only because of budget limitations and realignment that comes straight from AIRPAC," he said.

As far as the rating merger is concerned, "Everybody will be in the same basket because of the similarities in some of their skills and also because they use many of the same, or similar, tools, such as Photoshop, layout and design programs and computers," Call said.

"There's going to be quite a learning curve at the very first," Phelps added.

"I think the journalists and photographers have had enough in the way of common skill experience that at first they should have an edge and flexibility that maybe the lithographers and draftsman won't as they initially come into the MC classification.

"However, as the curriculum is enhanced and evolves, and new grads begin coming in having learned the basics in each area of expertise rather than just one role, then those people will begin to have the edge."

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tyler@pstrides.com

Girl Scout meeting includes teenagers

By JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO, Japan — Nearly 200 Girl Scouts, volunteers and leaders from around Asia will gather in Tokyo this week at the National Olympics Youth Center for the Girl Scout Overseas-West Pacific annual winter training conference.

The conference traditionally has been for adult volunteers and managers, but this year the group is conducting a parallel leadership development course for American and Japanese teen Scouts.

"The special new feature is we're bringing in older girls this year for leadership training," said the chapter Chief Executive Officer Sharon Reece.

Participants are coming from Japan, Guam and Hong Kong, as well as U.S. military bases in Japan and Okinawa.

The conference focuses on career development, stress management and other life skills for those who lead Girl Scout troops.

This year's conference is the first held at a Japanese facility. For the teen leadership portion, the conference will include a series of seminars and events for Japanese and American teens on topics such as careers and finances and fighting stress.

On Friday, the teens will visit Tokyo's famous adolescent hotspot Harajuku and a Shibuya mall during a "Girls Night Out."

The same night, the adults will gather at the New Sumo Hotel for a dinner and auction to raise money to help girls attend scouting summer camps in Japan and Okinawa, Reece said.

The auction last year included 100 items and raised \$5,000.

This year's event also will include a change of leadership. Reece will turn over the group's reins to Hida Aveni, from the Girl Scouts of the USA National Office in New York. Reece will become CEO of the Girl Scouts of Monterey Bay, Calif.

For more information on Girl Scout Overseas, contact wggs.office@us-army.mil or call 263-3597.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittler@pstrides.com

Army creates badge for non-infantry GIs

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — After 60 years of debate, Army officials have finally decided to create a badge for non-infantry soldiers that recognizes their direct participation in ground combat.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker presented the new Close Combat Badge, or CCB, to a cadre of senior officers Friday during a regularly scheduled meeting of four-star Army generals, according to Lt. Col. Bryan Hilferty, an Army personnel spokesman.

The new badge will be the equivalent of the Army's Combat Infantry Badge, which was created in 1943.

The CCB, in the form of a rifle surrounded by a wreath, is reserved for infantry and Special Forces soldiers only.

The Close Combat Badge will be awarded to soldiers with military occupational specialties in armor, the cavalry, combat engineering, and field artillery. Officers must have a branch or specialty recognized in Army regulations as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat."

The CCB will be presented only to soldiers who are engaged in active ground combat, moving to contact and destroy the enemy. All soldiers are allowed to wear their unit patch on their right shoulder as a "combat patch" after spending 30 days in an authorized combat theater.

Proposed criteria for badge

Who is eligible? Colonel or below for officers; all enlisted soldiers are eligible

Enlisted soldiers must have a Military Occupational Specialty in Armor or Cavalry (CMF 19), Artillery (CMF 13), or Combat Engineer (CMF 12)

Officers must have a branch or specialty officially recognized in Army Regulation 611-1 as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat"

Soldiers must be:

- Assigned or attached to an Army brigade or smaller unit that is purposefully organized to routinely conduct close combat operations and engage in direct combat, in accordance with existing Army rules and policy
- Under fire while engaged in active

While prestigious, however, the wear of this unit patch as a combat designator does not necessarily indicate that the wearer was involved in direct ground fighting.

That is the purpose of the Combat Infantry Badge and a Combat Medical Badge, which is reserved for Army, Navy and Air Force medics. These were the only two Army symbols that indicate that the wearer has come under direct enemy fire.

Combat badges are different from military medals. Medals and the ribbons that

represent them are worn only on a soldier's mess dress and Class "A" and "B" uniforms, never on battle dress uniforms.

But the badges, which are rectangular pieces of metal when worn on the dress or Class "A" and "B" uniforms, are also worn as a fabric patch above the right-hand breast pocket of the BDUs — acting as a "visual recognition of close combat" whenever a soldier is in uniform, Hilferty said.

Additional eligible personnel:

- If all other criteria are met, eligibility may include other services and foreign soldiers assigned to Army units of brigade and below.

Effective date: Sept. 11, 2001 (retroactive)

Note: As of Feb. 14, this criterion was "pre-decisional," meaning that it has not yet been fully approved by Army or Defense Department officials.

Source: U.S. Army

been "talking about since the 1940s," when the CCB was established, Hilferty said in a Monday telephone interview.

Soldiers and their leaders have argued over the years that the infantry and Special Forces are not the only two branches of the Army that get into firefights.

The Army has periodically reviewed the criteria for the Combat Infantry Badge, but it wasn't until the conventional wars in Iraq and Afghanistan turned into insurgencies that the non-infantry soldiers' point of view gained increased momentum.

So, at the request of commanders in Iraq and Afghanistan, last year Schoomaker approved the creation of a task force to look at creating a new combat badge to reward the pool of soldiers recognized for their actions under fire, Hilferty said.

More details about the new Close Combat Badge, including its design and the procedure for soldiers to request the award, will be unveiled later this week, Hilferty said.

Army officials said they are hoping that Lt. Gen. Franklin L. "Buster" Hagenbeck, the Army's chief of personnel, will personally announce those details.

A March administrative message will follow that formally outlines the exact rules and regulations, officials said. The new badge should be available this fall through unit supply and also for purchase in military clothing sales stores.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgess@stripes.osd.mil

Camp Zama troops learn about managing radiation

BY JULIANA GITTNER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — In the hypothetical scenarios presented during the "Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation" course last week, servicemen faced a dirty bomb attack in a subway, a soldier with radiation sickness and a radioactive bomb attack on a school.

In real life, radiation could come from an attack or simply an accident in a shipyard or factory.

"The fact is, in today's situation, anybody could be in the front line," said Capt. Aaron Miaullis, a health physicist and the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) chief from the Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine — Pacific, based at Camp Zama.

Miaullis arranged for the MEIR class to come to Camp Zama, taught by three instructors from the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute in Bethesda, Md.

The course teaches how to manage radiological incidents, recognize the effects of radiation exposure and sickness, and how to begin treating patients. "People have an amazing paranoia over radiation," Miaullis said. "You can't see radiation, you can't touch it and you can't smell it."

Introducing servicemen to the topic can help take some of the fear out of it. The class is designed for servicemen and civilians, medical professionals and emergency planners, or anyone who might come in contact



PHOTOS BY JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Aaron Miaullis, Chemical Biological, Radiological and Explosive Chief demonstrates a GR-130 gamma instrument analyzer that detects, measures and identifies nuclides involved in a risk assessment.

with radiological material in the course of their work.

For 2½ days, about 45 people learned what radiation is and how it affects the body in the short and long term, how to protect themselves, how to treat patients and how to manage an incident location.

The instructors held a similar workshop the week before at Yongsan Garrison in South Korea.

"We want to give the folks an idea, if there was some sort of incident, what might they experience and who can they call on to help them," said Lt. Cmdr. Charles "Bob" Woodruff, an instructor

and operational health physicist at AFRL.

They were introduced to reference resources and agencies such as AFRL where they could call in an emergency. "We give them a lot of reference material," Woodruff said.

Most installations now have a CBRNE team. But many people are still unfamiliar with radiation. "There's a lack of experience. Most medical people just aren't familiar with it," said instructor Air Force Col. William E. Dickerson, director of military medical operations and staff radiological oncologist at AFRL.

When the MEIR course was

created years ago, it was called Medical Effects of Nuclear Weapons Course.

Since the Cold War has thawed, the course has evolved into a new program, and one instructor says it is more useful.

"Even though the threat was greater during the Cold War, I actually think the class is more pertinent now," said instructor Army Maj. Stephanie Vaughn, senior nuclear engineer at AFRL. "The probability of an accidental or deliberate terrorist event has greatly increased. The ability for first responders to actually make a difference is greater."

Training for such a scenario is



Lt. Ronnel Flores from the Naval Hospital Yokosuka reads a medical scenario during a Medical Effects of Ionizing Radiation class at Camp Zama, Japan.

one of the responsibilities of CHPPM-PAC, and falls on Miaullis' shoulders. After taking an expanded MEIR course in the United States, he arranged to bring the class to South Korea and Japan.

"I absolutely was thrilled with the course," he said. The training, he added, helps on many levels. It allows participants to network, so they can call on others who took the course with them for help in an emergency. "That's the advantage of having a class like this as opposed to a PowerPoint presentation," he said. "It sticks with them better. It's that interaction and the instructors that really bring it home."

E-mail Juliana Gittner at: gittner@stripes.osd.mil

IN THE STATES

Kerry: More troops needed

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Sen. John Kerry called for tens of thousands of new US troops on Monday and said the country should adopt a series of initiatives to support military families.

Kerry said he plans to file legislation to increase the size of the military by 40,000—30,000 in the Army and 10,000 in the Marines — to help support the country's efforts in Iraq and the larger war on terrorism.

He also said the country needs to do more to help families of those serving in the military,

from boosting death benefits to extending psychiatric care to veterans returning from Iraq.



Kerry

in Iraq proved that a lightning-fast, high-tech force can smash an opposing army and drive to Baghdad in three weeks. But there is no substitute for a well-trained and

equipped infantry to win the peace," Kerry said in remarks prepared for delivery Monday at an annual ceremony sponsored by the Telegram & Gazette of Worcester.

The program being pushed by Kerry would allow families of veterans killed in combat to remain in military housing for up to year.

Some families must move out of the housing after 180 days. The Massachusetts Democrat also said the country needs to do more to support businesses whose employees are called up for service. He is pushing a small business tax credit for businesses who make up the difference in lost wages for reservists.

Prosecutor: Shooter had Columbine 'fascination'

By MICHAEL HILL
The Associated Press

KINGSTON, N.Y. — A man who opened fire in a crowded shopping mall with an assault weapon, wounding two, seemed to have a "tutid fascination" with the 1999 Columbine High School massacre, a prosecutor said Monday.

Robert Bonelli, 24, is accused of wounding two people and sending shoppers scurrying for safety Sunday after shooting his way into the Hudson Valley Mall, just outside Kingston then giving up when he ran out of ammunition.

Police searching the suspect's room in the nearby town of



Police officers walk from one of the entrances to the Hudson Valley Mall in Kingston, N.Y., after a shooting inside the mall Sunday. Police said a lone gunman opened fire, wounding two before being subdued.

Saugerties that night found a cache of "Columbine memorabilia," said Ulster County District Attorney Donald Williams.

Bonelli was being held without bail in the county jail after being

arrested overnight on first- and second-degree assault and reckless endangerment charges.

The wounded included a National Guard recruiter who was in a booth inside the mall when he was shot. State police Capt. Wayne Olson said the 20-year-old man might lose his leg. The second victim, a 56-year-old man, had superficial gunshot wounds.

Paper's lawsuit tossed

BALTIMORE — A federal judge Monday dismissed a lawsuit challenging Gov. Robert Ehrlich's order barring state employees from talking to two journalists from The Baltimore Sun.

U.S. District Judge William Quarles said the newspaper was asserting a greater right to access to government officials than private citizens have.

The judge, Judge Franklin said that he was disappointed by the decision and that the newspaper may appeal.

Ehrlich last fall barred state employees from talking to The Sun's State House bureau chief David Nitkin and columnist Michael Olesker. The governor said the two journalists were not objectively covering his administration.

Fine for Cuba travel

DETROIT — A couple will appeal a judge's fine of \$5,250 for a trip to Cuba they said had a humanitarian purpose, their attorney said Monday.

Attorney Kurt Berggren said the fine was excessive, and he will file the appeal with Michael and Andrea McCarthy by the Thursday deadline. The McCarts, of Port Huron, are devout Roman Catholics who traveled to Cuba in 2001 for a vacation but also took medicines with them and participated in religious services.

Verizon to buy MCI

NEW YORK — Verizon Communications Inc. is acquiring MCI Corp. for \$6.75 billion, a swift response to the acquisition of AT&T Corp. by SBC Communications International Inc. and the third big telephone industry merger in two months.

The agreement announced Monday, scuttling a competing bid for MCI by Qwest Communications International Inc., will result in 7,000 job cuts from the combined Verizon-MCI work force of 250,000 employees.

The purchase price was about a half billion dollars below what Qwest offered for MCI, which re-

cently changed its name from WorldCom Inc. after emerging from bankruptcy and a huge financial fraud.

Verizon, the dominant local phone company in the Northeast and a top cellular player, likely won MCI's favor because it is larger and in better financial shape than the local phone carrier across the more sparsely populated Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest.

The deal values MCI's stock at \$6.75 billion, or \$20.75 per share — equal to Friday's closing price on the Nasdaq Stock Market. But after rising 12 weeks in two weeks amid speculation fueled by the SBC-AT&T deal, MCI's shares fell \$1.06, or 5.1 percent, to \$19.69 on Monday's early trading.

Woman won't stand trial

MCKINNEY, Texas — A woman diagnosed with bipolar disorder and depression after cutting off her baby's arms is not competent to stand trial on a murder charge, a jury ruled Monday.

The verdict came after only minutes of deliberations in Dena Schlosser's brief competency trial. Prosecutors and defense attorneys each requested that she not stand trial.

Attorneys said they expected the judge on Tuesday to issue a special order committing Schlosser to a state hospital in Vernon.

Schlosser, 36, was charged with capital murder Nov. 22, after she told a 911 operator she had severed 10-month-old Margaret's arms. Police found Schlosser in the living room, covered in blood, still holding a knife and listening to a church hymn.

From The Associated Press

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Feb. 14)	103.00
South Korean won (Feb. 12)	1,009.00
Denmark (Feb. 14)	1.1313
Dollar buys (Feb. 14)	0.7938
British pound (Feb. 14)	1.5192

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	1.5689
Canada (Dollar)	1.2968
Denmark (Krone)	1.1379
Egypt (Pound)	5.8153
France (Euro)	1.2127
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7995
Hungary (Forint)	166.64
Iceland (Krona)	4.8185
India (Rupee)	47.815
Japan (Yen)	106.76
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2515
Norway (Krone)	0.5555
Philippines (Peso)	54.75
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	2.4731
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4881
South Korea (Won)	1,009.00
Switzerland (Franc)	1.2102
Thailand (Baht)	1.4045

Turkey (Lira) 1.4045
(Military exchange rates and rates available to customers at military banks in the United States and Canada for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (including British pounds), see the "Money tip of the day" section. U.S. dollars are converted to local currency rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currency rates as of Feb. 14, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

PRECIOUS METALS

New York Mercile close	
Gold	\$420.50
Silver	\$7.201

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.50
Federal funds market rate	2.50
3-month bill	2.55
30-year bond	4.48

Source: The Associated Press, Bank of America

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Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day

Asset allocation help

Knight Ridder News Service

An investment strategy known as asset allocation, also called diversification, can help an investor achieve financial goals, as well as reduce a portfolio's exposure to risk in the marketplace. The idea is to distribute money among a variety of investment options, such as bonds, equities and mutual funds.

A variety of Web sites offer advice on developing an asset allocation strategy. Here are a few sites with useful information:

■ www.aail.com/promo/bastings/allocations.shtml Article discusses different facets of asset allocation.

■ www.bankrate.com/bnm/news/dollardiva/20000615a.asp

How to develop an allocation investment strategy.

■ www.ici.org/44s/80-44s-diversification.html Covers the benefits of portfolio diversification, with sample allocation plans.

■ www.investorguide.com/guinvestportfolio.html Overview of asset allocation principles and risks involved.

■ www.smartmoney.com/one-asset/ Features asset allocation worksheet for a target portfolio allocation.

Ala. town mourns starved children

The Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — More than 1,500 mourners filled an Alabama church Sunday to remember three children who died after their mother allegedly starved them.

The children were found Feb. 4 at a Huntsville apartment they shared with their mother, Nathashay Ward, who has been charged with capital murder after admitting she starved the three, police said.

Elder Joe Hereford, pastor at a church where the children sometimes attended Bible classes, challenged mourners "to reach out with compassion and with love" in his eulogy to the youngsters — Shanika Ward, 9, Latrice Ward, 9, and Christopher Ward, 8.

"What I'm saying, Huntsville, is we've got to be concerned about one another," Hereford said.

"If we can't learn to love one another down here, we might as well stop talking about heaven."

As rain fell, mourners released balloons over the children's graves.

Teachers from the school the children attended also spoke, remembering that the three smiled often and were helpful.

"They all took their schoolwork seriously," said Brenda Wingate, principal of Ridgecrest Elementary School, addressing the standing-room-only crowd.

"We loved these children."



Latrice Ward



Christopher Ward



Shanika Ward

Calif. GOP backs Arnold for 2006

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Although Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has not revealed whether he will seek re-election, the California Republican Party changed a party rule and endorsed him 16 months before the 2006 gubernatorial primary.

Delegates at the state GOP convention on Sunday decided to make an exception to the party's policy of not endorsing candidates before the primary elections so Republicans can pay some early expenses — such as bulk mailing and voter registration — should Schwarzenegger decide to run again.

"The Democratic Party is already raising money to field candidates for this office," said Karen Hanretty, a party spokeswoman. "To remain competitive, the party had to make this necessary, one-time rule change."

A voice vote on the endorsement was "overwhelmingly supportive of the governor," Hanretty said.

Testimony to resume in ex-priest's sex case

BALTIMORE — Dontee Stokes, the man who alleges he was sexually abused by a defrocked priest, endured intense cross-examination last week from defense attorneys. As the prosecution's star witness, there may be more uncomfortable days ahead.

Last week, Stokes, 29, vividly described the abuse he says he suffered at the hands of Maurice Blackwell, whom he looked up to as a father figure in his boyhood and as an altar boy.

The defense suggested Stokes has trouble distinguishing between fantasy and reality, and that he made up the allegations as a way of dealing with his own sexual identity crisis.

Testimony in the case against Blackwell was expected to resume Monday.

Blackwell is charged with four counts of child sex abuse. Stokes served house detention for accusing the former priest on a street in 2002 and shooting him.

From The Associated Press

Bush to ask Congress for \$82B more to fund wars

By DEB RIECHMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush was poised to officially ask Congress on Monday for an estimated \$82 billion to cover the costs of continuing military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan and myriad other internationally related expenses, including training Iraqi security forces and aiding victims of the tsunami.

The White House was to send the supplemental budget request to Capitol Hill late Monday, White House press secretary Scott McClellan told reporters.

Included in the request is \$74.9 billion for the Defense Department, including \$5 billion for transforming Army divisions and brigades and \$5.7 billion for training and equipping Iraqi military and police, according to a federal official familiar with the supplemental.

The remaining money in the supplemental request includes \$950 million to help areas affected by the recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean; \$350 million to aid the Palestinians; \$400 million to reward nations that have taken political and economic risks to join U.S.-led coalitions in Iraq and Afghanistan; money to help build a U.S. embassy in Baghdad; reconstruction funds for Afghanistan; and money for the Darfur region of western Sudan where a two-year-old civil conflict has left tens of thousands of people killed and more than 2 million displaced.

In a written statement on this issue earlier, Bush had said the special appropriation would support U.S. troops and help the United States "stand with the Iraqi people and against the terrorists trying desperately to block democracy and the advance of

human rights."

The Army wants to use the \$5 billion to convert 33 brigades and regiments — about 30 of which are organized into 10 divisions — into a force of 43 or 48 brigades that would operate more independently.

"Instead of having the brigades have to communicate with their divisions and the divisions communicate with their higher-ups, all 43 to 48 would be allowed to communicate with higher-ups and operate more or less independently," said Steven Kosiak, an analyst with the Washington-based Center for Strategic and Budgetary Studies.

Last Monday, Bush submitted an overall \$2.5 trillion budget. That document called for restraining spending across a wide swath of government programs from popular farm subsidies to poor people's health programs. Spending on the military, the biggest part of discretionary spending, would rise by 4.8 percent in 2006 to \$419.3 billion.

The Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 35 moderate and conservative Democrats, known as fiscal and defense hawks, are criticizing the administration for using the supplemental budget request to ask Congress for more money to finance the war.

"The Blue Dog Coalition recognizes that we must support our troops, but the Congress cannot continue to write blank checks," the group said in a statement.



Bush

Letourneau to wed ex-pupil in April

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Mary Kay Letourneau plans to marry the former sixth-grade pupil with whom she had two children, months after her release from prison for raping him, according to an online birth registry.

Letourneau, 43, and Vili Fualaau, 22, set a wedding date of April 16, according to their registry at a department store.

Letourneau served 7½ years on a 1997 conviction for raping Fualaau, who has said in the past that he hoped to wed his former teacher.

"It's been long overdue," Noel Soriano, a friend of the couple, told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in a story published Monday. "It's going to be fabulous, and seeing them get hitched finally."

A lawyer for Fualaau and a

friend of Letourneau did not immediately return calls Monday seeking further comment.

Letourneau was a 34-year-old married mother of four when she began a sexual relationship with her then-12-year-old elementary school student in 1996. She was pregnant with Fualaau's first child when she was arrested in 1997 and ordered to serve a six-month sentence for second-degree child rape.

One month after she was released, Letourneau was caught

having sex with Fualaau in her car. She pleaded guilty in 1997 to two charges of child rape, and gave birth to the couple's second daughter while serving her 7½-year sentence. Fualaau's mother is raising their two daughters, ages 6 and 7.

Shortly after Letourneau was released from prison last August, the pair successfully petitioned a judge to lift a no-contact order that had barred them from seeing each other.

Soriano said Fualaau proposed last fall, but the couple has been trying to keep wedding details secret. Details are yet to be completed, but plans call for their daughters to be flower girls, he said.

"They have gone through a lot," Soriano said. "That they lost this long, proves how strong their love is."



Letourneau

Police conclude blood in Mich. house not Hoffa's

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Blood found on the floor of a Detroit home is not that of Jimmy Hoffa, police said Monday, ruling out what had seemed to be one of the most promising leads in the disappearance of the labor leader who vanished nearly 30 years ago.

Authorities had ripped up floorboards from a house where Frank Sheeran, a former official

in Hoffa's Teamsters union, said he shot Hoffa to death.

Police in the Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Township received a written report from the FBI's crime lab Monday morning concluding the blood found on the floorboards was not Hoffa's.

Police Chief Jeffrey Werner said investigators and Oakland County prosecutors were skeptical of the lead from the begin-

ning but were obligated to pursue it after Fox News Channel claimed that its own investigation had turned up blood on the floor of the house.

Hoffa, the subject of a 1992 movie starring Jack Nicholson, last was seen on July 30, 1975, at a restaurant in Bloomfield Township.

Sheeran died in 2003, and his claim was detailed in a book published months later.



Alicia Keys holds her awards for best R&B album, best R&B song, best R&B female vocal performance and best R&B group with vocals.

West still upset

Kanye West has a beef with Dick Clark.

West had complained bitterly about his defeat to country singer Gretchen Wilson at the Clark-produced American Music Awards.

Backstage Sunday, the Chicago rapper was still ticked off. "I do not apologize to Dick Clark or the AMAs because you should not have had me perform and have me nominated for so many awards but not have an award," he said.

'Bittersweet' tribute

A bald Melissa Etheridge and teen soul star Joss Stone electrified the audience with a gritty tribute to Janis Joplin.

A barefoot Stone sang "Cry Baby," then teamed with Etheridge's vocals and driving guitar on "Piece of My Heart."

Kris Kristofferson, who wrote the Joplin classic "Me and Bobby McGee," introduced the duo. Joplin died of a drug overdose at age 27 in 1970.

"It's bittersweet," he said. "She was so passionate about what she did."

White hot on Lynn

What do a 69-year-old country legend and a 29-year-old rocker have in common? A Grammy.

Loretta Lynn and White Stripes frontman Jack White teamed to sing "Portland Oregon," which won for country collaboration with vocals.

Asked backstage about their "hot new romance," White deadpanned, "What do you mean new?"

From The Associated Press

At the Grammys ...



Bonnie Raitt and Billy Preston perform "Do I Ever Cross Your Mind" in tribute to Ray Charles, who died in June, at the 47th Annual Grammy Awards on Sunday at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Everybody loves Ray

AP photos

Charles' final album, 'Genius Loves Company,' wins eight

BY NEKESA MUMBI MOODY

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Ray Charles had a legendary career that defied categorization and influenced generations of artists — but he never had one of those blockbuster albums that many lesser artists have enjoyed.

Eight months after his death, all in right with the world, Charles' final album, "Genius Loves Company," won a leading eight Grammy awards on Sunday night, including album of the year, record of the year for "Here We Go Again" with Norah Jones, and pop vocal album.

The victories highlighted the astounding success of "Genius Loves Company," which has sold more than two million copies — the most of Charles' 60-plus albums.

U2 won three awards, including best rock performance by a duo or group. Green Day, the most nominated rock act with six for their politically charged punk opera "American Idiot," won best rock album.

"Rock 'n' roll can be dangerous and fun at the same time, so thanks a lot," Green Day lead singer Billie Joe Armstrong said as he accepted the award.

Alicia Keys and Usher shared an award Sunday night for best



The members of Maroon 5 pose with their awards for best new artist at the Grammy Awards on Sunday in Los Angeles.

R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals for their chart-topping duet "My Boo." Each was nominated for eight Grammys; Keys won four while Usher had three.

The most nominated artist of the year was perhaps the most multifaceted — Kanye West, the songwriter-producer who made his rap debut in 2004 with the cutting-edge CD "The College Dropout." He was nominated for 10 Grammys, including album of the year, but only took home three, including best rap album and best rap song for "Jesus Walks."

He was upset in the best new artist category, losing to Maroon 5 in a race that also included country singer Gretchen Wilson, Los Lonely Boys and soul sirens Joss Stone.

Maroon 5's Adam Levine seemed most apologetic.

"Kanye West, I want to thank you so much for being wonderful," he said. The camera cut away to West, who looked less than pleased.

The oft-maligned Britney Spears also won her first Grammy — best dance recording for "Toxic."

Spears wasn't present, but another newlywed was on hand: Jennifer Lopez performed a duet in Spanish with new hubby Marc Anthony, their first public performance together.

Other performers included Green Day, whose rollicking act was bleeped by the censors; and U2. Even the "Godfather of Soul" James Brown joined Usher for a funky number showcasing their dancing prowess.

Perhaps the evening's most exhilarating performance was from Melissa Etheridge. The rocker, who is battling breast cancer, took to the stage for a Janis Joplin tribute with a shaved head but strong voice, and received a standing ovation.



The late Janis Joplin was honored by Melissa Etheridge, gesturing above, and Joss Stone, not pictured, with their renditions of "Cry Baby" and "Piece of My Heart." Etheridge's hair loss is a result of a battle with cancer.

The winners

A list of some of the winners announced during the broadcast of Sunday's 47th Annual Grammy Awards:

Album of the Year: "Genius Loves Company," Ray Charles and various artists.

Record of the Year: "Here We Go Again," Ray Charles and Norah Jones.

Song of the Year: "Daughters," John Mayer.

Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal: "Vertigo," U2.

Country Album: "Van Lear Rose," Loretta Lynn.

Rap Album: "The College Dropout," Kanye West.

R&B Album: "The Diary of Alicia Keys," Alicia Keys.

New Artist: Maroon 5.

Rock Album: "American Idiot," Green Day.

Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal: "Heaven," Los Lonely Boys.

Male R&B Vocal Performance: "Call My Name," Prince.

— The Associated Press

But ultimately, the night belonged to Ray Charles. Besides the four awards for best album and song, "Genius Loves Company" won for best instrumental arrangement accompanying a vocalist, best gospel performance, best engineered album and best surround sound album.

Charles was 73 when he died in June, of a total of 12 Grammys in his 50-plus year career. The most he ever won in one night was four in 1960, including two for the classic "Georgia On My Mind."

That was the song performed Sunday by Keys and the actor Jamie Foxx, considered an Oscar lock for his portrayal of Charles in "Ray."

"For an old friend," Foxx said as he began to play.

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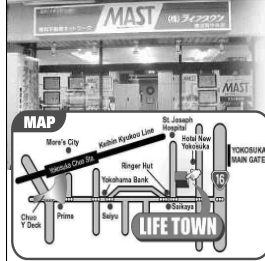
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Screener misses knife

NEWARK, N.J. — A security screener at Newark Liberty International Airport failed to spot a butcher knife in a passenger's pocketbook and was removed from the post for re-training, officials said.

Katrina Bell, 27, had cleared security and was waiting with her sister to board a flight on Saturday morning when she discovered she was carrying the knife.

Bell had put the knife in her bag "just in case" before going on a blind date earlier that week, her sister and travel companion, Tikisha Bell Gowns, 30, said in The Sunday Star-Ledger of Newark.

"She said to me, 'Oh my God, I have this butcher knife in my pocketbook,'" Bell Gowns said.

"My first thought was, 'They're going to think we're terrorists.'"

Bell and her sister Tikisha Bell Gowns told airport personnel, who summoned police and Transportation Security Administration officials.

The women were not charged and the screener was removed from the checkpoint and will undergo remedial training, TSA spokeswoman Ann Davis said.

From The Associated Press

Alleged Ky. attacker was faking pregnancy

Police: Woman killed while possibly trying to steal fetus wore maternity clothes

The Associated Press

FORT MITCHELL, Ky. — A woman stabbed to death while possibly trying to steal a pregnant woman's fetus had been carrying an ultrasound picture of someone else's twins and was wearing maternity clothing filled with padding.

Police said 26-year-old Sarah Brady, who was nine months pregnant, acted in self-defense Thursday when she killed Katherine Smith.

No charges had been filed Sunday and Commonwealth Attorney Bill Crockett said he hadn't decided whether to present the case to a grand jury.

The attack happened after Smith called Brady and asked her to come over and pick up a package supposedly delivered to her by mistake.

"She was mentally disturbed," Fort Mitchell Police Sgt. Tom Loos said of Smith. "There is no question about it."

Smith, 22, had been falsely telling neighbors for weeks that she was pregnant, and a search of her apartment after her death revealed a full baby nursery, investigators said.

Brady told police she was attacked when she went into Smith's first-floor apartment to

look at the woman's nursery. Police released details of Brady's statement Saturday.

"Katie reached into her pocket, pulled out this knife that was already open, put it in the overhand thrust position and attacked her," Loos said. "Sarah was able to make it out into the hallway, but Katie reached out, grabbed her by the hair, and pulled her back in."

Loos said it appears that Brady struck Smith on the head with an ash tray and then grabbed the knife, stabbing Smith three times, including once in the upper chest.

Loos said that when Brady ran out of the apartment and flagged down a passing motorist for help, Smith removed her maternity underwear stuffed with padding and called 911. Dispatchers kept her on the line until she lost consciousness.

Smith bled to death. Police described Brady's wounds as cuts to her hands.

Loos said Sunday that as far as he knew Brady had not yet delivered, although her due date was reported as Friday.

Smith also had an ultrasound picture of unborn twins, and claimed they were her twins from an earlier pregnancy who died at birth, but Loos said it was another woman's ultrasound.



Fort Mitchell Police Department's Sgt. Tom Loos talks about evidence collected at the apartment of Katherine Smith in Fort Mitchell, Ky.

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Owners, dogs get ready for Westminster show

BY ROY APPLETON

The Dallas Morning News

NEW YORK — With the big event kicking off Monday morning, Susie Williamson decided to seek some guidance, perhaps getting a leg up on the competition.

The Irving, Texas, woman and Dali, her Belgian Malinois, are here for the Westminster Kennel Club's annual dog show. As always, she will handle her champ in the ring. And Sunday morning she called on Joy Mason, an "animal communication specialist," in the basement of the Hotel Pennsylvania.

"I want to know if there's anything I do that frustrates her," Williamson asked the veterinarian and pet massage specialist, who for \$40 embarked on a 20-minute read

of the grinning, attentive Dali, sitting before her in a pillow chair.

Apparently not, replied Mason.

"She's glad to be here. She understands the scene. She knows a lot's riding on the show." But Dali remains a little ticked, the therapist said, after failing to repeat last year as national Malinois champion. "She felt she got robbed by a woman judge."

The smiling Mason, from Pasadena, Calif., wasn't the only one working Sunday to help dogs and their people prepare for the 129th annual Westminster show.

The event, featuring 2,500 champions from 165 breeds, runs through Tuesday at Madison Square Garden.

Across 7th Avenue from the arena, the Hotel Pennsylvania was a show of its own

Sunday. Pet taxis picked up and delivered guests, while leashed dogs of many a size, gait and coat loitered in the lobby or walked about.

And in the basement, a canine massage therapist and holistic veterinarian worked near two Jog-a-Dog treadmills, four bathing tubs, assorted vendors and groomers.

Not to forget Mason, who likens herself to a condtit and says she uses "words, pictures and feelings" from animals to address their concerns or emotionally synchronize dog and handler before a show.

Drawing attention to the downstairs action is Gerry Grymek, the hotel's publicist and self-styled "doggie concierge." In the subterranean digs, even the most basic needs are met.

"We call this our canine loo," he says,

surveying the scene inside the basement popoatory, with its separate His and Hers sawdust-covered relief areas. "Some of our owners take their dogs seriously and like it sectioned off," he says. "And a lot of the dogs are shy."

Besides a few trips to the basement, a walk and a visit with the reader, Dali spent Sunday in her pad overlooking Madison Square Garden. After sleeping on the bed, she was up by 8 a.m., played ball around the room, downed a few slices of breakfast bacon and later had the run of her place when Williamson dined out.

Williamson and Leffingwell say their dogs' chances are far from a walk in the park. And Mason, the communicator, offered perhaps a scoop Sunday while recalling some of Dali's litters and past performances.

Teddy bear flap could become business school case study

BY DAVID GRAM

The Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — W. Michael Hoffman says he might use the controversy generated by the Vermont Teddy Bear Co.'s straitjacketed "Crazy For You" bear as a case study in one of his graduate seminars on business ethics.

"Even though it has that kind of cutesy flavor, it brings up issues about corporate behavior and how corporations should be sensitive and interact with society,"

said the director of the Center for Business Ethics at Bentley College in Waltham, Mass.

The decision to market the bear, and to keep doing so even in the face of widespread criticism that its straitjacket and "commitment report" made it insensitive toward people with mental illness, has put the Shelburne-based company under the spotlight among business ethicists and public relations executives around the country.

Among the question he would

ask students, Hoffman said, would be, "Does the company need to be more sensitive? ... Does the fact that the bear sold out mean you were right to put it on the market?" The company began advertising the "Crazy For You" bear in early January. When mental health advocacy groups raised an alarm, the company responded by saying it was sorry if it had offended anyone, but would continue selling the bears until its inventory had sold out.

As the pressure built, with

scooldings both from Republican Gov. James Douglas and the state Human Rights Commission, the company stuck to its guns.

A company official did not respond to messages requesting an interview with CEO Elisabeth Robert. Robert, whose name is pronounced "ro-BEAR," gave a round of media interviews on Jan. 29, during which she said it was "a very difficult decision" not to withdraw the bear from the market.

"I listened to customers, from a lot of feedback from our employ-

ees. These people are Vermonters who really don't like to be told what to do," Robert said.

That didn't score any points with the company's critics, some of whom, said Robert, had gotten a distorted view of the message they were trying to send.

"No one's trying to tell them what to do," said Rep. Anne Donahue, R-Northfield, who has struggled with serious depression and is a leader of the Vermont Psychiatric Survivors. "We're not demanding, we're pleading."

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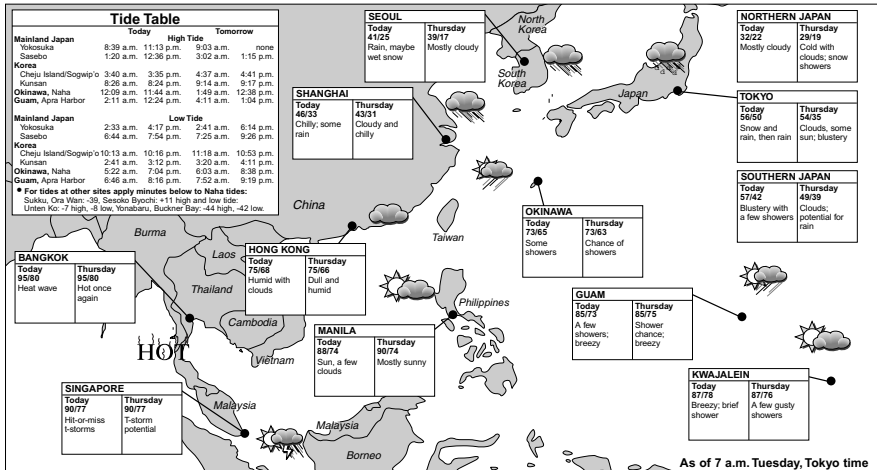
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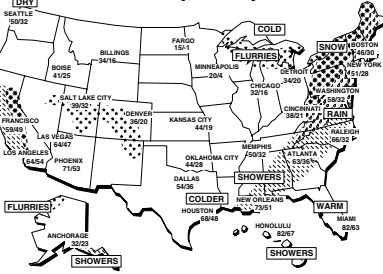
Extended Forecasts

TOKYO Friday: Rain, high 44, low 34. Saturday: Showers, high 53, low 41.	KADENA Friday: Rain, high 67, low 57. Saturday: Showers, high 63, low 51.	SEOUL Friday: Snow, high 34, low 15. Saturday: Partly sunny, high 21, low 3.	MANILA Friday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 74. Saturday: Partly sunny, high 88, low 72.	HAGATNA Friday: Showers, high 85, low 75. Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 75.
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Monday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	58/38	Los Angeles	66/53	Seattle	50/32
Amarillo	75/40	Little Rock	74/49		
Anchorage	32/26	Louisville	60/44		
Ashville	48/34	Miami	80/65		
Baltimore	45/39	Milwaukee	45/33		
Birmingham	67/47	Nashville	66/40		
Bismarck	39/12	New York	42/38		
Boise	42/20	Omaha	61/34		
Boston	38/35	Orlando	80/58		
Brownsville	87/62	Philadelphia	45/40		
Buffalo	44/36	Phoenix	72/55		
Burlington	37/32	Pittsburgh	52/40		
Charleston, SC	68/50	Portland, OR	48/30		
Charlotte	57/42	Portland, ME	32/27		
Cleveland	52/38	Salt Lake City	45/27		
Columbus, OH	52/40	St. Louis	62/47		
Duluth	37/14	San Antonio	83/54		
El Paso	68/46	San Diego	65/54		
Hartford	36/35	San Juan	81/72		
Helena	37/15	Tampa	76/62		
Indianapolis	53/41	Tulsa	76/52		
Jacksonville	75/52	Washington, DC	47/40		
Kansas City	66/42	Wichita	70/44		

Wednesday, February 16



U.S. Extended Forecast

A cold front will sweep through the East Wednesday ending the spell of mild weather. As the front passes, rain will change to snow, and a few spots, especially across higher terrain may receive a few inches of fresh snow. Cold air across the Plains will slowly retreat Thursday and Friday. The Southeast and southern Rockies will be active through the period as Pacific moisture flowing northward interacts with a stalled front over the central Rockies. This will result in another round of rain in the Southwest Friday with snow throughout the Rockies. The Pacific Northwest will be abnormally dry and also cool for this time of year. Although it will be cooler across the Southeast with a few showers Wednesday high pressure will result in sunshine for Thursday and Friday.

Wednesday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	95/80	Beijing	36/24	Kaduna AB	51/41
Camp Casey	39/29	Kansan AB	50/36	Saisabo NB	32/22
Diego Garcia	70/53	Kwajalein	87/78	Seoul	41/25
Hagatna	84/76	Manila	88/74	Shanghai	46/33
Hanoi	85/73	Masawa AB	34/28	Singapore	90/77
Hong Kong	82/70	Osan	43/31	Sydney	79/59
Honolulu	82/67	Pusan	53/37	Taegu	51/35
				Taipei	80/67
				Tokyo	56/50

Wednesday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Accapulco	89/73	Budapest	35/28	Kabul	81/50
Athens	53/47	Buenos Aires	80/65	Kiev	35/39
Auckland	74/60	Cairo	79/56	Kuwait	68/48
Baghdad	68/43	Cancun	84/67	London	43/35
Barbados	86/69	Cape Town	89/67	Madrid	49/32
Barcelona	52/34	Geneva	27/27	Mexico City	75/48
Berlin	29/23	London	49/38	Montreal	33/13
Bermuda	66/56	Jerusalem	64/48	Mogadishu	91/77
Brussels	36/24	Johannesburg	82/60	Warsaw	34/24



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Autograph gouging

RI PROVIDENCE — Professional athletes who try to pad their million-dollar paychecks with paid autograph signings wouldn't be welcome in Rhode Island under legislation introduced.

Sen. Roger Badeau said he is fed up with athletes at large-scale autograph signing events charging up to \$100 for an autograph. What really irks him is that children have to pay for the signatures of their sports heroes.

"They get paid millions and millions. Where do we stop with this? It doesn't make sense," Badeau said. "It's not even realistic anymore."

Badeau's bill would ban professional athletes, entertainers or promoters from charging a fee for an autograph to a child younger than 16. They would be fined \$100 for each violation.

Officer arrested

TX FORT WORTH — A Fort Worth police officer has been arrested after a 15-year-old girl accused him of fondling her in his patrol car in November.

Officer J.D. Carter, 40, a nine-year veteran, was arrested and bonded on suspension of his license with a child/sexual contact. Carter, who was released after posting \$15,000 bail, has been placed on detached duty and is not allowed to carry a badge or a gun.

Carter's attorney, Bill Lane, called the allegations untrue.

"It's a sad day," Lane said. "We've cooperated fully with the police department. It's strictly his case," she said.

Mr. Peanut honored

VA SUFFOLK — The home of the top-hat-wearing Mr. Peanut will honor the dapper goober with vehicle registration decals.

The cane-carrying symbol of the region's signature crop will be displayed on Suffolk's 2005 registration decals, which must be affixed to windshields.

It's the first time in Mr. Peanut's nearly 90-year history that Suffolk has used it on anything officially representing the city.

"He is recognized on Madison Avenue," said City Treasurer Ron Williams, who unveiled the decal to the City Council late last year. "He is respected on Wall Street. But he resides on Main Street in Suffolk. I can think of no better image to look out from the windshield of the vehicles in the city."

Bay Bridge repairs

MD ANNAPOLIS — Without saying who is to blame, a report released by an independent panel concluded that a combination of rushed work and inadequate planning was the cause of bungled repairs on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.

At least \$7 million worth of re-paving work must be redone, and State Transportation Secretary Bob Plagman said the project won't be finished by spring 2006, as originally planned.

Work began on about two miles of the bridge in 2002 and was esti-

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

mated to cost \$70 million.

The crux of the problem, the panel found, is that the long, thin westbound span of the bridge presented a more complex repair job than state officials, engineers and contractors planned.

Reimbursed flights

IL SPRINGFIELD — The director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources has pledged to repay the state \$2,000 for using state-owned aircraft to commute from his home and fly to charity-hunting trips in South Dakota.

Gov. Rod Blagojevich ordered Joel Brunsold to make the reimbursement after an Associated Press report showed Brunsold used planes and helicopters to fly to and from his home at least nine times and used state aircraft for special trips more than most government executives.

Brunsold, 62, planned to alter his practices to suit the governor, but he defended the use of the aircraft, saying he sometimes has to get to remote locations quickly to conduct agency business.

Religious suit dropped

HI HONOLULU — A federal judge has dismissed the U.S. Justice Department's religious dis-



25th anniversary

Students re-create the parade of athletes in Lake Placid, N.Y., as the village starts its celebration of the 25th anniversary of the 1980 Winter Olympics, which was held in the village.

crimination lawsuit against Maui County. U.S. District Judge Samuel King dismissed the lawsuit at the request of the Justice Department. The case was dropped because the underlying state lawsuit of a Maui church against the county has been settled.

King dismissed the federal lawsuit with prejudice, meaning it can't be filed again. He also ordered each side to pay its own legal costs.

County attorneys had wanted King to order the government to explain the basis of the lawsuit, which grew out of a land-use dispute and litigation involving Hale O Kaula church, which was denied a permit to build a worship center on agricultural land in Pukalani in 2001.

Helping meter readers

WV CHARLESTON — Appalachian Power is replacing 50,000 electric meters on Kanawha Valley homes with equipment that sends radio signals and allows readers to check meters without getting out of their car.

"It helps us be more efficient and accurate," spokeswoman Jeri Matheny said. "They're good for residential areas where you can drive down a block and read a number of meters at once."

They also improve safety, Matheny said.

"Our meter readers deal with dangerous dogs. They're just like the Postal Service when it comes to that," she said.

Instead of spinning dials, the new meters have digital readouts and are lighter than the electromechanical meters they replace.

Strong storm strikes

AZ PHOENIX — A strong storm lashed parts of Arizona with heavy rain, forcing authorities to close portions of four highways because of rock slides and flooding and driving dozens of people from threatened homes.

Some 40 residents of two mobile home parks in Puntkin Center, about 80 miles northeast of Phoenix, were evacuated because of rising water from Tonto Creek. People living east of the creek were stranded by flooding at low water crossings.

Some precautionary evacuations were ordered in at least three other communities for residents living near rivers.

Authorities blocked portions of four state highways near Globe because of rock slides and flooding. It is not clear when the roads would reopen.

Prison murder plot

CA CRESCENT CITY — The prison that houses some of California's most violent inmates will remain on lockdown for several weeks as authorities investigate what they call a "very sophisticated" plot to kill three guards.

Pelican Bay State Prison has been under a state of emergency since Feb. 4, when inmates alerted prison officials to the plot, spokesman Lt. Steven Perez said. He said investigators believe the plot was orchestrated by members of the Mexican Mafia, a well-organized prison gang.



Honoring those lost

Washington, D.C., firefighters Greg Thompson, left, and Donald Lee sign a commemorative 343 FDNY fire helmet in tribute to the 343 firefighters lost in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks during the National Lincoln Birthday Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.



Win some, lose some

Allen Lassetter of Elm Mott, Texas, slides off his horse as the steer he was chasing abruptly turned. Lassetter was a participant in the steer wrestling competition during the San Antonio Rodeo.



Highway inferno A fuel tanker truck burns in Davie, Fla. The 18-wheel tanker truck was driving onto a ramp from Interstate 595 to Florida's Turnpike when the driver lost control and the truck overturned, Florida Highway Patrol Lt. Pat Santangelo said. The truck, carrying 9,000 gallons of fuel, toppled onto a passenger vehicle, pinning it against a guardrail before bursting into flames.



Live and in concert Legendary trumpet player Maynard Ferguson performs in concert, along with his band, The Big Bop Nouveau Band, in Easton, Pa.



Observant squirrel A fox squirrel eyeballs a bird decal at the Everett H. Krueger Nature Center observation window at Highbanks Metro Park north of Columbus, Ohio.



Showing support From left, Mason Smith, Blanch Smith, Dorothy Burnette and Everette Burnette show their support for Company B of the 391st Engineer Battalion, a York, S.C.-based U.S. Army Reserve company, which left for Afghanistan via Fort Bragg, N.C.

Wrong inmate freed

PA SCRANTON — Lackawanna County Prison officials botched a prisoner transfer and accidentally released the wrong inmate to a rehabilitation facility, where he walked away.

The whereabouts of Brian McDonald, 22, of the Bronx, N.Y., were unknown. Prison Warden Paul L. Jennings said. McDonald had been at Lackawanna County Prison since Jan. 4 on a parole violation, the warden said.

Dennis McDonald, 50, of Scranton, was the inmate who was supposed to be transferred to Keenan House, an Allentown rehabilitation facility, Jennings said. He had been in the prison after allegedly violating his parole.

Keenan House staff arrived at the prison with an order from the state Board of Probation and Parole to pick up Dennis McDonald, originally convicted on a drug charge, officials said.

Instead, the prison handed over Brian McDonald. "We gave them the wrong person — it (the mistake) was on our end," Jennings said.

Keenan House is a residential facility that allows patients to leave at their own will, which Brian McDonald did upon his arrival, Jennings said.

Sex offender arrested

CA CUPERTINO — A flurry of complaints about a woman in tight red shorts and a sports bra trespassing on middle-school campuses has led to the arrest of a registered sex offender who happens to be male.

Santa Clara County sheriff's deputies said Jeffery Stuart Poe, 43, had been arrested at his Sunnyvale home after witnesses who confronted a suspect at Kennedy Middle School in Cupertino chased him to his car and jotted down the license-plate number.

Police said the incidents began when a man disguised as a woman would slide up to groups of students at several South Bay schools.

Plan for basin

WY CASPER — The Bureau of Land Management was set to present its draft management plan for the 4.5 million-acre Great Divide Basin. The plan would guide management and resource development of the area for the next 20 years. The plan would allow more than 8,800 oil and gas wells to be drilled in the area, generating billions of dollars in mineral revenue.

Federal mediation

MO ST. LOUIS — The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra's musicians and management agreed to federal mediation in a labor dispute that's forced 13 concert cancellations. Union members on Jan. 3 resoundingly rejected a four-year contract offer that required them to take a pay cut. The symphony is ranked among the nation's best, with six Grammy awards and 56 nominations.

Too many false alarms

CA FREMONT — With his city's police force poised to become the first in California to stop responding to most burglar alarms, insurance salesman Den-

niss Wolfe is urging fellow citizens to arm themselves.

"I absolutely believe everybody should own a gun in Fremont now," Wolfe said. "If the police aren't going to protect us, we have to protect ourselves."

Wolfe, 52, said he has been deluged with support since he began distributing letters and fliers urging residents to obtain permits to carry concealed weapons, suggesting how to shoot an intruder and have it ruled self-defense, and calling for a recall of Mayor Bob Wasserman if he doesn't rescind the policy, which takes effect Feb. 18.

Police Chief Craig Steckler announced the policy last month, saying more than 98 percent of Fremont's 7,000 annual alarm calls turn out to be false alarms. That costs \$600,000 in staffing, tying up police officers who could be dealing with other crimes, he said.

Under the new plan, officers will be verified by a witness or surveillance system. Police spokesman Detective Bill Vetteran called Wolfe's rescind "absolutely ridiculous."

Pricey freight

AZ PHOENIX — Union Pacific Corp. is raising rates as much as 100 percent for some items being shipped into and out of Arizona.

The move could result in higher prices for industrial goods and construction materials. Shippers in Phoenix, which has one of the railroad's most congested freight yards, will face some of the stiffest hikes.

Survives plunge in ice

VT RUTLAND — A Rutland man survived his first ice fishing trip when his van plunged through the ice on Lake Champlain.

Joel Maranville's vehicle crashed through the ice about 100 yards from shore near Port Henry, N.Y.

Maranville, 46, was able to free himself from the van as it hung to the bottom of the lake. He spent several minutes clinging to loose pieces of ice until someone heard his cries for help and called rescuers, who were able to pull him out to safety using a rope. Maranville was treated for hypothermia.

A real shocker

VA RICHMOND — Chief Warrent Officer Edwin Murphy was too busy helping tsunami victims to check his \$100,000 winning lottery ticket, Virginia Lottery officials said.

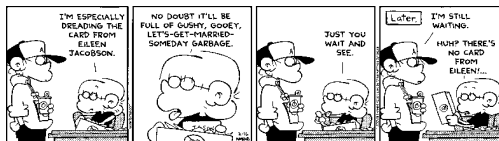
Finally, nearly two weeks after the Jan. 15 drawing, Murphy checked his ticket and had won the top prize in the Cash 5 game.

"I was really pretty shocked," he told lottery officials when he claimed his prize. "I wasn't sure because I never win anything."

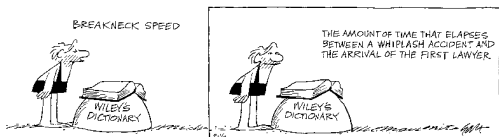
The lucky soldier purchased his winning ticket at a 7-Eleven in Woodbridge. The winning numbers were 4-9-14-18-32. Murphy had little time to think about lottery tickets, traveling to coordinate the movement of water, food and other materials for victims of the South Asia disaster. He is assigned to the Defense Logistics Agency at Fort Belvoir, and plans to retire in June after 30 years in the Army.

Stories and photos from wire services

Forot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



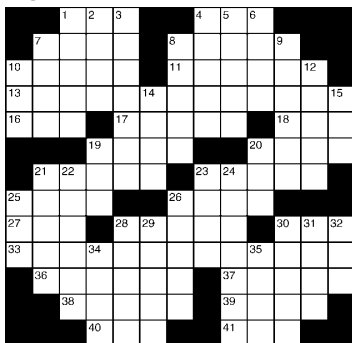
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- "See ya!"
- Oohs' mates
- Landolin source
- Ponder gloomily
- Warble
- Supermarket sections
- Canes
- Photo —
- Senate staffers
- "Go, team!"
- Catch sight of
- Sampiras or Seeger
- Bender
- Cole Porter subject
- Do fingerpainting
- Wrestling style
- Right angle
- Dolphins' home
- Shall-game need
- Dismissal
- Scottish port city
- Seckel and Anjou
- Track circuits
- Superlative suffix
- North Sea feeder

Down

- Sixth plague of Egypt
- It's surrounded in albumin
- Oval
- Obeys reveille
- Emcees
- One's performances
- Conceal a gift
- Loose-fitting
- Edict
- Seesaw quorum
- Emulate Katarina Witt
- Scuff
- The girl
- Tarzan's creator's monogram
- In favor of
- Dieter's entree
- Come to the curb
- Heart, jocularly
- Friendly
- Morning moisture
- Wise guys?
- Gold-finger?
- Motionless
- Incubator noises
- Historic periods
- Make inquiries
- Elbow
- counterpart
- Stroller

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-16

CRYPTOQUIP

Y QT MDLIQYOVZ IBD TFNI
IQOODJ RDLNFO BDL D
IFJQZ. QVV FIBDLN RQVD
YO MTRQLYNO.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: TWO GUYS INVENTED RADIO SIMULTANEOUSLY. I GUESS THEY WERE ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals N

Keep the puppy, dump the friend

Dear Abby: I have a friend I'll call "Tara." A few months ago, Tara gave me a puppy. She said it was for no reason other than "because we're such good friends," and she knew I had been thinking about getting one.

I told Tara that I wanted to get her a present, but she refused, saying she would not accept any of my charity. I let it go.

My birthday and Tara's are on the same day. That's how we became friends. I bought Tara a present. She did not give me one, although we usually exchange gifts. Instead, she demanded that I give her a laptop computer and several DVDs or give her back the dog! Abby, I was astounded. I was even more astounded when Tara claimed she "knew" I had been into drugs and was a department store thief. She said if I don't give her what she asked, she would tell my mother and the police.

Dear Abby



I have never been into drugs. I don't steal. Should I leave her what she wants? I don't want to go to jail.

— Astounded in Los Angeles
Dear Astounded: Do not return the puppy, and do not give in to her demands. However, DO

cross Tara off your list of friends. Once a gift is given, it belongs to the recipient. There are names for what this manipulative "friend" is attempting to do: the terms extortion and blackmail would apply. It's important you tell your mother what's going on immediately. Then inform Tara that the friendship is over and there are severe penalties for filing a false police report.

Dear Abby: My brother committed suicide four years ago. He had two children who are now in the fourth and sixth grades. Their mother has never told

them the circumstances of their father's death.

When is it appropriate to tell children that a parent's death was due to suicide? Everyone who knew my brother knows how he died. I'm afraid someone will slip up and say something in front of them.

— Concerned Aunt
Dear Concerned: What makes you think the children have no idea of the circumstances surrounding their father's death? There was bound to be a conversation about it when it happened. Even if an effort was made to protect them, children are not stupid.

They may not have talked to their mother about it because they're afraid they'll make her sad if they do. By all means, the mother should bring up the subject with them — if only to ask them what they know about their father's death.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DORRA
 O _ _ _ _

THRIM
 _ _ _ _ _

YOCKEJ
 _ _ _ _ _

DINCAR
 _ _ _ _ _

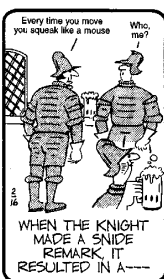
www.jumble.com

A: " _ _ _ _ _ " IN HIS _ _ _ _ _

Yesterday's Jumbles: NUDE DOWNY POTENT ANYWAY

Answer: What the children did when Mom brought home cookies — PUT THEM AWAY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirin



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Father fears for son's mental health

Dear Annie: When I married back in the '60s, I was a workaholic. I had little time for family, and after 14 years, my marriage ended in a very bitter divorce. The real victims of this split were our two children, "Gary" and "Sue."

After the divorce, I seldom saw either of my children outside of special occasions and holidays. My ex-wife dealt with being a single parent by climbing inside a bottle. When Gary was 15, he attempted suicide. Things were miserable.

Over the years, Sue, now age 35, has grown closer, but my relationship with Gary is still tentative. Five years ago, he wrote me a disturbing letter saying he was tired of the run-of-the-mill life, although I can't imagine why he thought so since I rarely saw him. A few months after that, Sue told me Gary had stopped returning her calls. We then discovered Gary had broken off relationships with his entire family, including his mother

Annie's Mailbox



"Sara," a nurturing type. I am scared to death that he might attempt suicide again. I think he should be examined by a mental health expert. I fear for his son's safety, too.

— Panicked in Pittsburgh
Dear Panicked: We understand your concern, but you might not know Gary well enough these days to make any assumptions about his mental health. The fact that he is distant and self-isolated does not mean he is suicidal.

The best thing you can do is maintain some kind of contact, even if that means the conduit is Sue and she talks mostly to Sara.

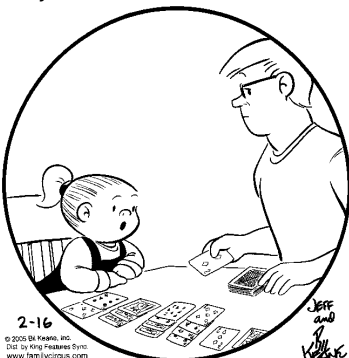
At least you will be kept abreast of the situation, and it will enable you to attempt to reconnect with your son.

Dear Annie: My best friend leaves the price tag on all the gifts she gives me, with the excuse that she wants me to be able to take the items back if they don't fit or I don't like them. I was raised to remove price tags before giving a gift. Which is proper etiquette?

— Baffled Friend
Dear Friend: It is proper to remove anything that mentions the cost of an item given as a gift. If requested, most stores happily provide gift receipts, which enable the recipient to return the item without revealing the price. Either your friend is uninformed or she wants you to know exactly how much she spent. We say, consider it a quirk and ignore it.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of *Annie's Mailbox*. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus

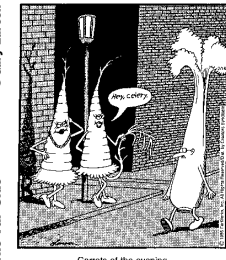


"Gee, you hafta use a deck of cards? Grandma plays solitaire on the computer."

GRAFFITI



Dennis the Menace



STRIPES CLASSIFIED

CAREER CENTER

Career Center

1030

Career Center

1030

are you an Innovative Thinker?

ATS designs and builds eBusiness systems for government and commercial clients. These positions, supporting HQ PACAF, will review, prioritize, schedule, task, plan, and coordinate PACAF OSA missions (excluding helicopters) in support of validated passenger and cargo movement within the PACOM AOR. IAW applicable DOD, USAF, and PACAF instructions and directives. They develop primary support and backup plans for PACAF-assigned and attached aircraft for Commanders of USDPACOM, PACAF, and other theater "required use" travelers.

Open House
Pagoda Room, Dragon Hill Hotel at Yongson Army Installation
February 16 and 17
8 AM - 5 PM

Logistics Support Operators [Logisticsian]

- Former Senior NCO or Junior Officer with Air Force Supply and/or transportation certification
- 2 years of experience in commercial market or DOD equivalent
- Minimum of 2 years of college or equivalent
- Maintain US Secret Security Clearance

Airlift / Tanker-Coronet Planners

- Minimum of 2 years of college or equivalent
- Prefer 2 years in commercial air carrier scheduling and planning or 2 years in military air carrier scheduling and planning
- Maintain US Secret Security Clearance

The Airlift Planner's duties include, but are not limited to:

- Support management of the PACAF Channel airlift structure.
- Manage Special Assignment Airlift Mission (SAAM) for the PACAF AOR.

The Tanker Planner's duties include, but are not limited to:

- Prepare PACAF air-refueling requirements for Quarterly Worldwide Air Refueling Conference.

The Coronet Planner's duties include but are not limited to:

- Planning and coordinating the movement of fighters escorted by tankers for air refueling within the PACAF AOR.

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- 2 years as flight dispatcher with commercial air

Additional areas with varying skill sets and education requirements include:

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EOE, M/F/D/V.



You speak the language and live the culture.
Contacts. Tactics. Mission. Purpose.
Ensuring the military advantage.
You are the unseen and hear the unseen.
You could be anybody, anywhere.

You are Intelligence

Be DIA



Defense Intelligence Agency



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STARS AND STRIPES
Your Hometown Newspaper

Marine at Iwakuni Wins 2004 NFL Challenge



First Sergeant James "Woody" Biggs (right), receives a check from Stars and Stripes employee Yasuhiro Muneno.

James "Woody" Biggs, 37, of Folsom, Calif., correctly guessed the outcome of 167 out of 254 selected games in the 2004 NFL season, outdistancing 1,936 other entrants for the grand prize of \$1,000 in the NFL Challenge, a season-long contest sponsored by Stars and Stripes, Oconus.com and Teamstore.com.

The AFC was in a clear cut above the NFC — and the New England Patriots just couldn't lose. Everything about the 55th Pro Bowl mirrored the season, which ended with the AFC's 38-27 victory Sunday.

Manning threw for three scores to extend his career Pro Bowl record to 11, and Vick led the NFC to 17 points during a second-half comeback that fell short. While Manning collected the keys to a new car with just six completions in an MVP performance, Vick drew the biggest gasps and cheers from the sellout crowd at Aloha Stadium for the NFL's all-star game.

Four Patriots who made the trip to Hawaii were the guests of honor among the stars all week, receiving deference and accolades for their third championship in four years. Though none made a big contribution to the AFC — Tom Brady played two series and Adam Vinatieri missed a field goal — all went home with a winning check for \$35,000. Manning, the regular-season MVP after breaking Dan Marino's NFL record with 49 touchdown passes, completed just six passes for 130 yards. But three were perfect scoring tosses, and the quarterback was selected the player of the game in his fifth trip to the Pro Bowl.

Manning, whose Indianapolis Colts were eliminated by New England in the second round of the playoffs, didn't have the award clinched until the AFC defense finally slowed Vick, who nearly rallied his club in his first Pro Bowl.

"I'm not going to say I wasn't holding my breath over there once Vick started to roll around,

Manning, Vick star in Hawaii

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Peyton Manning threw effortless touchdown passes in bunches.

Nobody dared to look away from Michael Vick, afraid to miss something spectacular.

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"I'm not going to say I wasn't holding my breath over there once Vick started to roll around,

but our defense did a great job of stopping him," Manning said. "It was good we got the game this year after we let the lead slip away last year."

Pittsburgh's Hines Ward caught a touchdown pass and returned an onside kick for a score, and three San Diego Chargers stars led the clinching TD drive in the fourth quarter of the AFC's seventh victory in nine meetings.

Manning hit Colts teammate Marvin Harrison, Ward and San Diego's Antonio Gates in the first 25 minutes while the AFC built a 28-10 halftime lead.

Vick was 14-for-24 for 205 yards and a score, and also ran for a 3-yard TD.

AFC 38, NFC 27

At Honolulu

NFC 10 14 3-27

AFC 14 14 0 10-38

First Quarter

AFC — Harrison 62 pass from Manning (Vinatieri kick), 8:33.

AFC — Ward 39 kick return (Vinatieri kick), 12:01.

Second Quarter

NFC — Westbrook 12 run (Gates kick), 12:09.

NFC — FG Akers 31, 14:11.

NFC — Holt 27 pass from Vick (Akers kick), 11:11.

NFC — Vick 3 run (Akers kick), 5:53.

Third Quarter

AFC — FG Akers 25, 9:04.

AFC — Tomlinson 4 run (Vinatieri kick), 5:41.

Fourth Quarter

AFC — Westbrook 12 run (Gates kick), 12:09.

AFC — Holt 27 pass from Vick (Akers kick), 11:11.

NFC — Vick 3 run (Akers kick), 5:53.

NFC — FG Akers 31, 14:11.

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For NHL, no news not always good news

It wasn't as if the NHL was having such a great season to begin with. So there's that consolation if league boss Gary Bettman pulls the plug on this one, expected to happen Wednesday barring any last-minute settlement.

Think about it: If the commissioner hadn't come up with that risky lockout maneuver when he did, and the season went ahead as usual, chances are the three biggest stories at this juncture would have all been public-relations disasters. They would have played out in courtrooms and offices instead of ice rinks, and dragged the attention of most casual fans along with them.

Those stories, in rough chronological order, would have been: Former St. Louis goon Mike Danton being sentenced last November to 7½ years in prison for trying to have his agent killed; Vancouver thug Todd Bertuzzi petitioning Bettman last month for reinstatement after he viciously blindsided Colorado forward Steve Moore; and Atlanta's Dan Healy being sentenced last week to three years' probation after pleading guilty to second-degree vehicular homicide in the death of teammate Dan Snyder.

That's the problem with the NHL. Pro hockey can be exhilarating, but hasn't been for a while, and the only time it makes the front of the sports pages anymore is when someone or something goes terribly awry.

Jim Litke



Bettman took the job pledging to put hockey on equal footing with the other major team sports, and he widened the NHL's footprint from 21 franchises to 30, made inroads into nontraditional hockey meccas like Arizona, Florida, Tennessee and Texas, grew revenues from \$400 million to almost \$2 billion, and brought big-time U.S. broadcasters into the league's TV fold.

But running with the big boys carries a steep price tag and all that expansion accomplished was to put more teams in a deeper financial hole. A league-sponsored report last February put losses from the previous season at \$273 million, and there are only two ways to get rid of a deficit like that: one is to bring in more money, the other is to cut costs.

Unfortunately, Bettman failed to get

"cost certainty" the first time he locked the players out and lost nearly half the 1994-95 season. This time around, he's willing to call off the whole deal and risk driving away even more fans to get his way.

Any idea that stupid is rarely the work of one man, and that's certainly the case here. Players are taking home three-quarters of what the teams are taking in—the average salary has grown to \$1.8 million last season from \$558,000 in Bettman's first season. And while their union has shown some willingness to compromise in the few bargaining sessions that have taken place, they're drawing the line at a salary cap.

The NFL and NBA have them in place, baseball still does not.

Bettman and his owners have gone on record guaranteeing the players an annual income of \$1.3 million under their latest proposal—a cap included. But as NBA star Latrell Sprewell said so plaintively earlier this season, players have families to feed, too. That's their rationale for letting this season slip away, and like Bettman, they're foolishly sticking to it.

Some of the resulting developments would be funny if they weren't so painful.

A nine-man group called the Atlanta Spirit bought the NHL Thrashers, the NBA Hawks and Philips Arena operating rights last year, and part of its paycheck was sup-

posed to come Sunday, with a chance to host hockey's All-Star game. Instead, with the arena dark, a member of the ownership group said he might go sit in the stands

"and pretend like I'm watching a game." "It's been a disappointment," Michael Gearon Jr., told his hometown newspaper, "we haven't seen a hockey game, really, since we became owners."

Neither, for that matter, has anyone else. By this point in previous negotiations between billionaires and millionaires, fans would have chosen sides, with the resulting public pressure forcing one or the other—or both—to make meaningful concessions.

Instead, both sides have interpreted the press' silence as an endorsement of their position.

Wait until they find out the real reasons things have been so quiet. The product is dull and expensive, it's vanishing in Canada, where fans still care deeply, and springing up in Sun Belt locales, where there are plenty of alternatives and fans could care less.

Instead of admitting the mistakes of the past decade of expansion, Bettman is determined to get a collective bargaining agreement that justifies them. And the players are just as determined to call his bluff.

Jim Litke is a national sports columnist for Sports Illustrated. Write to him at: jlitke@ap.org

Canseco takes credit for bringing steroids to MLB

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK—Jose Canseco's autobiography accusing several top players of steroid use and charging that baseball long ignored performance-enhancing drugs, appeared to be a hit on its first day in bookstores.

Amazon.com listed "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big" as third on its best seller list Monday.

The book had an initial printing of 150,000 copies and Regan Books does not disclose sales figures, spokeswoman Jennifer Suit-or said.

"I don't think it's a good thing, obviously, because it's bringing a bad light to the game," New York Yankees captain Derek Jeter said Monday. "This is a time, obviously, baseball is in a negative light and Jose is not helping out. In terms of his accusations, the only people that know are him and whoever he is accusing. The unfortunate thing is, if it's not true, you're looking at guys having to defend themselves over something they haven't done."

Mark McGwire, one of the former teammates Canseco accused of using steroids, issued a written denial.

The relationship that these allegations portray couldn't be further from the truth," McGwire's statement said. "I also worry how these false allegations will taint the accomplishments of the Oakland Athletics' coaches, players and executives who worked so hard to achieve success during the era in question, along with the



In this video image released in New York by CBS, former baseball slugger Jose Canseco, right, is interviewed by "60 Minutes" host Mike Wallace. Canseco spoke candidly about his use of steroids during his major league career and injecting the performance-enhancing drugs into the bodies of some of baseball's biggest stars, including the St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire, the first player to hit 70 homers in a season.

other players and organizations affected by this book.

"Most concerning to me is the negative effect that sensationalizing steroids will have on impressionable youngsters who dream of one day becoming professional athletes. One of our for all, I did not use steroids or any other illegal substance."

McGwire was not available for interviews.

In the book, Canseco is an unabashed advocate of performance-enhancing drugs.

"By the time my 8-year-old daughter, Josie, has graduated

from high school, a majority of all professional athletes—in all sports—will be taking steroids. And believe it or not, that's good news," he writes. "I have no doubt whatsoever that intelligent, informed use of steroids, combined with Human Growth Hormone, will one day be so accepted that everybody will be doing it. Steroid use will be more common than Botox is now. Every baseball player and pro athlete will be using at least low levels of steroids. As a result, baseball and other sports will be more exciting and more entertaining."

Canseco calls himself the "god-

father of steroids in baseball," saying "I single-handedly changed the game of baseball by introducing them into the game."

Canseco specifically took aim at Jason Giambi, a former Oakland teammate.

"Giambi had the most obvious steroid physique I've ever seen in my life," Canseco wrote. "He was so bloated, it was unbelievable. There was no definition to his body at all. You could see the retention of liquids, especially in his neck and face."

The 1986 A.L. Rookie of the Year and 1988 MVP, Canseco spent 17 seasons in the major leagues.

NHL: League preparing to officially end season

NHL, FROM BACK PAGE

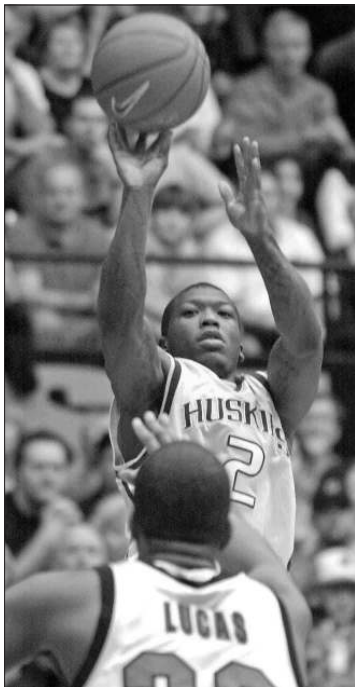
The NHL said its 31 clubs need to know what their costs would be, and the only way that could be achieved was with a salary cap that linked league revenues to player costs.

A cap was an automatic deal-breaker for the union even though it agreed that the financial landscape had to change. The players' association contended that there are many other ways to fix it.

The sides have traded proposals throughout the lockout that started Sept. 16. But the salary cap has always been the sticking point. Other issues such as arbitration, revenue-sharing, and rookie caps never reached the true negotiating stage because the sides couldn't agree on the big issue.

On Friday, the NHL sent a memo to its 31 clubs, allowing them to contact players—something that was previously forbidden. The memo also allowed team executives to speak publicly about the lockout without being subject to fines.

AP Sports Writer Ronald Blum contributed to this report.



Washington's Nate Robinson (2) puts up a shot against Oregon State's David Lucas during the first half of Sunday's Pac-10 game at Corvallis, Ore. Oregon State surprised the 11th-ranked Huskies 90-73.

Beavers avenge rout by upsetting Huskies

Oregon State takes charge early and romps away; knocks Washington out of share of lead in Pac-10

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

The Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Oregon State was embarrassed the last time it played Washington.

The Beavers were determined not to let it happen again, especially at home.

"We felt we owed them payback," senior guard J.S. Nash said. "It was an emotional game and I've never lost by 40. It was on a lot of our minds."

A month after a 108-68 shellacking in Seattle, Oregon State rose up and stunned the 11th-ranked Huskies 90-73 on Sunday.

David Lucas scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half and finished with 10 rebounds for Oregon State.

The Huskies (20-4, 10-3 Pac-10) had their four-game winning streak halted and fell out of a first-place tie with Arizona atop the conference standings.

"They played extremely well," Washington coach Lorenzo Romar said. "We didn't come to fight. We should have come with more fight than we had today."

The Beavers (14-9, 6-6) haven't had as many victories since the 1991-92 season. Oregon State has won three straight overall and improved its home record to 10-1.

"It was a big win for us," Oregon State coach Jay John said. "I can't remember the last time Oregon State was 6-6 in the Pac-10 with six to go."

Brandon Roy scored 25 points for Washington, which shot just 41.2 percent from the floor and missed 23 of 27 from three-point range.

Lamar Hurd's fast-break layup gave the Beavers an 89-73 lead with less than 2 minutes left, and the crowd was on its feet. The ovation continued until fans spilled onto the court after the final buzzer.

"We were just negligent," Roy said. "We beat them so bad I think some guys thought we were going to cruise for a victory."

When the teams met last month in Seattle, Oregon State not only lost the game but also its coach. John was hospitalized after complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath at the half. He was diagnosed with hypertension and missed the next game.

The Beavers played Sunday as if they were determined not to be humiliated again.

Oregon State mounted its challenge late in the first half. Leading 35-34, the Beavers went on a 7-0 run, capped by Chris Stephens' three-pointer, to make it 42-34. The lead was 44-37 at the break and any Washington comeback hopes were dashed when Oregon State scored the first eight points of the second half to lead by 15.

Nick DeWitz's dunk put Oregon State ahead 66-50. A 12-5 run got the Huskies within 71-62, but

the Beavers weren't rattled and moved out to a 76-64 lead on a three-pointer by Stephens.

DeWitz finished with 20 points, Nash had 18 and Stephens added 17.

"I think everyone on the team played awesome," DeWitz said. "It was 100 percent non-stop."

The Simmons was the only other Husky in double figures, finishing with 15 points.

Washington was coming off a 95-88 overtime victory over Oregon on Thursday night. Will Conroy has a three-pointer with less than a minute left to sent the game into an extra period.

This one, however, got away. Romar took the blame, saying he didn't have his team prepared.

"We can put this one on me. They played extremely well, but we should have given them a better fight," he said.

The Huskies head to Pullman, Wash., next weekend to face Washington State, before hosting the Arizona schools.

Oregon State was coming off a 58-51 victory over Washington State on Thursday. The Beavers are on the road next week to visit the Arizona teams.

"Now everybody can speculate how we'll when we go out of town," John said.

Last season, Washington was 0-5 in the Pac-10 before a 103-99 overtime victory at Gill Coliseum sparked a 14-2 streak that put the Huskies in the NCAA tournament.

Illinois remains No. 1

The Associated Press

Illinois was a unanimous No. 1 in The Associated Press' college basketball poll for the third straight week Monday, while Charlotte moved into the Top 25 for the first time in six years.

The Fighting Illini (25-0) beat Michigan and Wisconsin last week to remain the only unbeaten team in Division I. Illinois received all 72 first-place votes from the national media panel to stay No. 1 for the 11th consecutive week.

Kansas (20-1) moved up one place to get back to No. 2, a spot it held for nine straight weeks before losing at Villanova. The Jayhawks dropped to sixth after their only loss last week was the past two weeks.

Kentucky (19-2) jumped from fifth to third and North Carolina (20-3), which lost at Duke and won at Connecticut last week, dropped from second to fourth.

Charlotte (17-4) moved into the rankings at No. 23 after five wins in its last six games, the only loss

at East Carolina. The 49ers' other losses were to Rutgers, Alabama in triple overtime and Cincinnati.

The last time Charlotte was ranked came in the final week of the 1998-99 season when it was 24th.

Wake Forest moved up one place to fifth and was followed by Boston College, Duke, Oklahoma State, Syracuse and Arizona.

Michigan State jumped from 13th to No. 11 and then came Louisville, Gonzaga, Utah, Washington, Alabama, Pittsburgh, Connecticut, Pacific and Wisconsin.

The last five ranked teams were Oklahoma, Maryland, Charlotte, Cincinnati and Villanova. Maryland, which beat Duke on Saturday night to become the first Atlantic Coast Conference team in 10 years to sweep a regular-season series from the Blue Devils, moved back in at No. 22 after a week out of the rankings.

The Terrapins (15-7), who were ranked as high as 12th this season, were out of the Top 25 four of the previous five weeks as they lost five of nine.

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All-around skiers rule at Worlds

By ANDREW DAMPF
The Associated Press

BORMIO, Italy — Even though it's tougher to be an all-around skier these days, the all-around skiers are together to beat.

Bode Miller and Benjamin Raich combined to win four of the five men's races in the Alpine World Ski Championships, which ended Sunday, and Janica Kostelic and Anja Paerson took home all five women's gold medals.

"I think Bode and me and Janica — we're just determined that we know we can do good in all events and it's a short career," Paerson said. "It's tough, though. There are more races and the season is longer now and we don't have a lot of days to rest."

Sweden's Paerson won the super-G and giant slalom, the only two races that Kostelic didn't enter.

Kostelic won gold in the combined downhill and slalom. The Croat skipped the opening super-G race and was forced to sit out the giant slalom because she had the flu.

"I'm lucky. I really enjoy my life," Kostelic said. "Becoming part of skiing's history evokes unforgettable feelings. But it was tough."

Still ailing from the flu, Kostelic begged out of a planned celebration back home to honor her achievement.

Paerson also was satisfied with her medal haul, which included a silver behind Kostelic in the combined.

"I was up there for five gold medals and I came home with two and one silver. I'm very happy," Paerson said. "My goal was to come home world champion and I did it."

Overall World Cup leader Tanja Poutiainen of Finland won two silvers, in the giant slalom and slalom.

Marlies Schild, who entered with three World Cup victories this season, was the bronze medalist in the combined and fellow Austrian Renate Goetsch, a speed specialist, placed third in the downhill.

Julia Mancuso, a 20-year-old American, took home surprising bronzes in super-G and giant slalom. Italy's Lucia Recchia snatched an unexpected silver in super-G and unheralded Sarka Zahrobska of the Czech Republic claimed bronze in slalom.

The biggest surprise came when 19-year-old Elena Fanchini of Italy thrilled the home crowd by taking silver in the downhill only a month after making her World Cup debut.

"There are a lot of girls coming up. That's the way skiing should be," Paerson said. "It should not be one or two girls skiing fast, it



Austria's Benjamin Raich brushes past a gate during the men's slalom at the World Alpine Ski Championships in Bormio, Italy, Saturday. Raich and American Bode Miller combined to win four of the five men's races.

should be a tight event between everyone."

Italy also won two medals in the men's competition, with Giorgio Rocca taking bronze in combined and slalom.

The biggest surprises among the men came when Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal won silver in combined, and American downhill specialist Daron Rahvles finished third in giant slalom for his best result in that event.

Otherwise, it was the Benni and Bode show. Austria's Raich won the combined and slalom among four medals, and Miller finished first in the super-G and downhill. Raich also claimed silver in the giant slalom and bronze in the super-G, while the make-or-break Miller crashed out of his other three events.

"I am maybe more consistent," Raich said when asked to compare himself with Miller. "He started very well with two golds. I started more moderately, with a bronze. But now I have four medals, including two golds."

Perhaps the most memorable moment was when Austria's Hermann Maier won the giant slalom for his first world or Olympic title since returning to action from a motorcycle accident that left his right leg shattered.

"All the medals I've won are important, but this one has an even more specific meaning, after my crash, being able to stand back up, so to speak," Maier said.

Or maybe it was when Americans Miller and Rahvles finished 1-2 in the downhill to upstage the Austrian "Wunderteam" in skiing's signature event. Still, Austria led the final medals table with three golds and 11 medals overall.

A low point came when a small union of Italian state TV workers went on strike less than an hour before the men's giant slalom, forcing organizers to postpone the race by a day. The protest left organizers for the 2006 Olympics in nearby Turin upset, fearful that the scene could be repeated during the Winter Games, the next major event in skiing.

Mickelson enlists to walk on the beach, easy win

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Two weeks, two victories for Phil Mickelson.

And these aren't ordinary victories.

Mickelson is usually a thrill-a-minute guy who keeps everyone entertained by trying to hit clutch shots along the back nine with the tournament at stake. He birdied five of his last seven holes to win the Masters last year. He once hit a tee shot into the canyon during a playoff at Torrey Pines and still managed to win with a double bogey.

That's what makes these last two weeks on the PGA Tour so alarming.

One week after winning in Phoenix by a career-high five strokes, Mickelson went wire-to-wire in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am to win by four strokes over Mike Weir.

"It's obviously doing something right," Weir said.

Mickelson has won his past two tournaments by nine shots. Going into this year, he had won his previous eight PGA Tour titles by a combined nine shots.

After working on the right things now for a year, after getting back my distance off the tee and being able to utilize my wedge play, I feel like I'm able to make a lot more birdies," Mickelson said. "It just seems like... I don't want to say the game is easier, but it just feels a little bit easier."

There wasn't much heavy lifting Sunday, for sure.

Mickelson closed with a 1-over 73, the first time he has ever won with a final round over par. About the only thing he didn't get was the 72-hole record. He missed a 15-foot birdie putt on the final hole and finished at 19-under 269, one shot short of the record set seven years ago by Mark O'Meara.

"I really don't think about records like that, individual tournament records," Mickelson said. "I just really wanted to win this tournament."

That was never in doubt from the time Mickelson played with a course-record 62 at Spyglass Hill, regarded as one of the toughest tests in northern California.

Weir tried to make it interesting.



Phil Mickelson follows his drive from the 9th tee of the Pebble Beach Golf Links during the final round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Mickelson shot a 1-over-par 73 to finish at total 19-under-par.

The former Masters champion birdied three of his first four holes — the exception was a bogey when he missed the third green — and then made the only birdie of the final round on the 430-yard ninth hole, which plays along the cliffs and into a wet wind. He hit 3-wood to 6 feet.

When he birdied the 11th hole to get to 14 under, Mickelson's lead was down to four.

Mickelson, who had bogeys on Nos. 9 and 10 to give the Canadian a fleeting hope, was never worried. He knew the onward 10 holes at Pebble Beach were the toughest, and he only needed to get through them with limited damage.

When he got to the 11th, he smoked a drive down the middle of the fairway, hit a wedge into 18 feet and hit the purest putt of his final round for a birdie that pushed his lead back up to five.

Both players spent the rest of the day missing putts by the tiniest margins. Weir burned the edge on his next six holes, and his chip for eagle on the 18th just turned away. Mickelson followed his birdie at No. 11 by missing putts from 6, 4 and 8 feet, then missed three more inside 18 feet.

But all that affected was the final score.

This is new territory for Mickelson, winning by such a large margin, and it might take some getting used to.

"It was weird," he said. "I didn't feel the normal intensity, the normal stress. It was a very enjoyable round."

Which type of victory does he prefer?

"I enjoy the stress-free day at Pebble Beach, playing with friends," he said, alluding to Ford president Steve Lyons, with whom Mickelson has an endorsement deal. "But I also enjoy that intensity and nervousness and the excitement of having to pull off clutch shots to win."

He felt that earlier in the week, when he was building a seven-shot lead that made this event a foregone conclusion.

Mickelson became the first player to go wire-to-wire in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am over four rounds, and it was the first time in his career he had led from start to finish.

Weir didn't give up hope until he missed a 15-foot birdie on the 17th. His 67 was the only sub-70 score in the final round.

"I played one of the better rounds I've ever played," Weir said. "It could have been a really special round if a few things could have dropped for me."

Singh is No. 1, Woods No. 2 for Match Play

The Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — Vijay Singh will be the No. 1 seed in the Match Play Championship, narrowly hanging onto the top spot in the world rankings despite missing the cut in the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am.

The world ranking released Sunday said that determined the 64-man field for the World Golf Championship, which starts Feb. 23 at La Costa Resort just north of San Diego.

Tiger Woods, the two-time defending Match Play champion, will be the No. 2 seed. Woods can return to No. 1 in the world at Riviera this week in the Nissan Open, although that will not change the seedings for La Costa.

The top 65 are eligible for the \$7.5 million guarantee because Ernie Els, ranked third, has said he will not play.

Tour officials did not anticipate anyone else withdrawing, although players have until Friday to enter the tournament.

With Els not playing, Phil Mickelson will be the third seed and Retief Goosen will be No. 4. Assuming no one drops out, Singh would play Shingo Katayama in the first round and Woods would face Nick Price.

"I think Match Play is going to be a wonderful event," Mickelson said Sunday. "I think there is good chance this year a lot of the top guys will win the first few matches and square off later in the final rounds."

Malone: 'You will not see me play again'

By DOUG ALDEN

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY—Karl Malone still looks capable of playing in the NBA.

The knee injury that kept him out for half of last season is healed and the muscles that bulge from beneath his T-shirt indicate he's keeping up with his three-hour daily workouts.

But mentally, Malone said he doesn't have the will to endure the rigors of a 20th season, even just for a few months to try to win his first NBA title. He has had enough.

"I have retired. You will not see me play again. That is a promise," Malone said Sunday during a news conference. "There will be no unbelievable comebacks."

It was an unbelievable career. The 41-year-old Malone retires as the No. 2 scorer in NBA history, spending 18 seasons in Utah and one with the Los Angeles Lakers while trying to cap his career with a championship.

He visited San Antonio last week and talked with the Spurs about signing on for a playoff run, but said the "spark" he had always had to play was no longer there.

"When I got on that plane, I knew I was done, that it was time," Malone said.

He said he wanted to keep from getting too emotional Sunday, and he succeeded. He started off by thanking the Jazz, coach Jerry Sloan and former teammates before team owner Larry Miller reminded him he hadn't yet actually said why he was back in the Delta Center.

"I came here very humble as a man and as a player," Malone said. "I am honored to be here today because this is where I started. This is a team that took a chance on a young man from Louisiana—I don't think they ever watched me play a game."

An avid outdoorsman, Malone sported a cowboy hat as he spoke about a future involving plenty of hunting and fishing and maybe someday a job back in basketball. But it won't be as a player. He's already done all he could on the court.

Karl Malone is reminded by Utah Jazz owner Larry Miller to explain why they held a news conference — to announce the player's retirement — on Sunday.

Malone was the league's MVP in 1997 and '99. One of the most durable players ever, he is second to Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in scoring and minutes played. Malone's 14,968 rebounds rank sixth on the career list and he also was a 14-time All-Star selection, winning the game MVP in 1989 and sharing it with the longtime teammate John Stockton in 1993.

The Mailman also won Olympic gold medals in 1992 and '96. About the only thing missing in his career is a title ring, which he missed out on in all three of his trips to the NBA Finals. Malone and Stockton led the Jazz to the 1997 and '98 Finals, losing to Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls each time.

He had another shot with the Lakers last season, but was hobbled with a knee injury as the Detroit Pistons beat Los Angeles in five games.

"I wanted a championship. I'm not going to lie to you. That was my ultimate goal, but that was a team goal. That wasn't an individual goal," he said.

Malone said he chose Sunday to retire to honor his mother on what would have been her 67th birthday. Shirley Jackson Malone died in August 2003 and Malone said he has not recovered emotionally.

The consummate power forward, Malone teamed with Stockton for 18 seasons with Utah, forming one of the NBA's greatest duos. Malone said Stockton, who retired in 2003 as the NBA's career leader in assists and steals, was one of the first people he called last week to say he was finished.

Bronze sculptures of Stockton and Malone are in the hallways and will stand outside the arena. Stockton's No. 12 was retired in November and Malone's No. 32 will follow next season.

"I wish he would have played another year here," Malone said. "I wish he would have played another year with me."

Returning Far East stars have upped the ante

By DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Not often do two defending Far East wrestling champions return to compete in the tournament at the same weight, but that's the case in two classes — a men's title at Yokota Air Base, Japan, in what some coaches call a "wide-open" Far East High School Wrestling Tournament.

"It should be really exciting," said Brian Kints, tournament director and coach of the host Yokota Panthers. "Three action-packed, fun-filled days."

Thursday and Friday, wrestlers from 12 Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific and one from the Defense Elementary and Secondary School from Guam will battle Thursday in the individual freestyle tournament. On Saturday the Far East dual-meet team champion will be crowned.

The 168 and 215-pound first two days will be the highest highs of the year, where four of the five returning champions will be competing.

■ Joey Wood of Nile C. Kinnick, last year's 158-pound champion, could be in line to try to knock the 2004 168-pound champion, Devon Copeland, off his gold medal position.

■ Scott Tunis, who won the 180-pound and led Seoul American to its first Far East title of any kind since the tournament's inception in 1976, could end up bat-

Far East Wrestling Tournament

Feb. 17-19, 2005.

Yokota High School, Yokota Air Base, Japan.

Format: Individual freestyle tournament, first two days. Wrestlers drawn into two or three pools per weight class on first day, designed to spread wrestlers in double-dominance with consolation bracket on second day. Second day is a consolation bracket elimination with consolation.

1994 champions: Seoul American Falcons, Yongsan Garrison; Osan American Cougars, Osan Air Base; Taegu American Warriors, Camp George, South Korea; Guam High Panthers, Wm. H. Reiter, Guam; Robert D. Eitzen Eagles, Misawa Air Base; E.J. King Cougars, Sasebo Naval Base; Nile C. Kinnick Red Devils, Yokosuka Naval Base; Zama American Trojans, Camp Zama; Yokota Panthers, Yokota Air Base; Matsushita P. Perry Samurai, Makurumi Marine Corps Air Station, Japan; Kubasaki Dragons, Camp Foster; Kaduna Panthers, Kaduna Air Base, Okinawa.

2004 champions: Seoul American (dual meet, individual freestyle); Brenden Stanford (dual meet), 135 pounds; 120-pound champion in 2002; Joey Wood, Kinnick, 168 pounds (158-pound champion in 2002); Devon Copeland, Kaduna, 168 pounds (168-pound champion in 2004); Scott Tunis, Seoul American, 180 pounds (180-pound champion in 2004); David Burnett, Zama American, 215 pounds (heavyweight champion in 2004).

ting defending heavyweight champion David Burnett of Zama American in the 215-pound class.

"That's going to be a great final," Kints said of the potential final bout at 168 pounds.

Wood and Copeland didn't get to face each other in the major preparatory invitational, the Nile C. Kinnick "Beast of the Far East" at Yokosuka Naval Base. Both

lost to Ryland Geiger of Brent International of Manila.

Tunis and Burnett did square off; Tunis captured gold and Outstanding Wrestler honors.

"There should be a difference" this time, said Zama coach Ian Harlow. "They've wrestled each other and they know each other's styles."

Wood, Copeland, Burnett and Tunis are outstanding wrestlers and are seniors, with a lot of pride on the line, Harlow said. "Anything can happen."

Another weight class looming as important is 145, where transfer Steve Courtney of Kubasaki and Josh Dowers of Seoul American could battle for top honors.

Any of those classes "could decide who wins the team title," said Kinnick coach Robby Rhinehart.

For the first time, Matthew C. Perry of Japan will bring one grappler to Yokota: Adam Krievs, who wrestled most of the season for Kinnick, having transferred there in the fall from a football team folded. Krievs moved back to Perry this month. "He's one of those wild cards" who can grab valuable team points from a favored squad, Kints said.

All will be crucial in both individual freestyle and dual-meet tournaments, coaches said, in what may be a race to the finish, in part due to international schools' absence. DODDS-Pacific's Far East Activities Coun-

Browns cut veteran quarterback Garcia

By TOM WITHERS

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Quarterback Jeff Garcia was released Monday by the Cleveland Browns, who cut ties with the three-time Pro Bowler after one bad season.

Garcia signed a four-year, \$25 million free agent contract with the Browns' last March after spending five seasons with the San Francisco 49ers. But almost from the time Garcia arrived in Cleveland, there were problems.

In 10 starts for Cleveland, Garcia completed 144 of 253 passes for 1,731 yards with 10 touchdowns and nine interceptions. Even in the preseason, he criticized former coach Butch Davis' offense and never really fit into Davis' system.

Garcia's release — league rules prevent it from becoming official until Feb. 22 — continues a housecleaning of the aftermath of a 4-12 season by the Browns, who last week hired Romeo Crennel, New England's former defensive coordinator, as their coach.

On Sunday, Crennel hired Maurice Carthon as offensive coordinator and the two wasted no time coming to an agreement on their personnel needs, one of which was that Garcia didn't fit into their plans.

Garcia is likely to be one of a number of veteran quarterbacks on the market this spring.

Two-time MVP Kurt Warner, who signed with the New York Giants last spring to help break in Eli Manning, has asked to be released after losing his job to Manning after nine games.

Buffalo also could release Drew Bledsoe, a longtime starter with the Bills and New England Patriots.

Garcia, who resigned on Nov. 30 with five games left in the season,

brought in Garcia thinking he was the answer to the team's problems at quarterback. But Garcia never seemed to click with teammates and admitted to having a hard time adjusting to Cleveland life with the Browns, his entire life in Northern California.

During the exhibition season, the 34-year-old complained that he wasn't getting enough playing time and that he was having trouble adjusting to new teammates and a new offense. Garcia made things worse by openly criticizing Davis and offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie, complaining that they weren't using him properly.

At one point, Davis called Garcia a "skitter" in the pocket, a comment that angered the quarterback and expanded the rift between them.

After trading the Browns to beat Baltimore in the opener, Garcia threw three interceptions the next week in a loss at Dallas and recorded a 0-1 quarterback bungle — only the fifth NFL quarterback since 1970 to do so.

Garcia's season was also hampered by injuries. He strained his shoulder on a sack against the New York Jets on Nov. 21 and tore a knee ligament on Dec. 12 in Baltimore.

Offseason distractions further strained Garcia's relationship with the Browns and Cleveland coach Eric Mangini, who is in a trial for his girlfriend, a Playboy Playmate, who was accused of a kayabe-kicking one of Garcia's girlfriends during a fight at a downtown nightclub.

With Garcia gone, the Browns will likely try to re-sign free agent Steve McNair or trade for a veteran quarterback. The team also has the No. 3 pick in April's NFL draft, although it is unlikely they would trade down with a rookie quarterback.

cit, billing and facilities concerns, ruled in September that Far East wrestling, tennis and cross country meets now will exclude international schools.

That means St. Mary's International, which won all four of its in-season tournaments and swept its five Kanto dual meets this season, will not attend — which throws the chase for team honors "wide open," Rhinehart said.

"I'm going to miss having the international schools," Kints said. "But without them, now you don't know what's going to happen."

Kints cited Seoul American, Yokota, Kinnick and Okinawa's Kaduna Panthers as "being in the hunt. If St. Mary's was here, there would be no doubt about it. They'd be a lock to win both team titles. But now, you have four legitimate title contenders."

"The top four will bring within 10 points of each other," Rhinehart said.

In the individual freestyle tournament, points are awarded to the top six finishers on a 12-8-5-3-2-1 points basis. Making a difference in this tournament, Rhinehart said, are the teams that can earn placements in every weight.

"These schools are the ones that in the finals, they can step up and win a few thirds, fourths, even fifties and sixths. That's where some tournaments are won," he said.

Expect a fight to the finish, Kints said: "I can't wait for it to start. It's going to be a blast."

SPORTS

3 more TDs, another MVP



AFC quarterback Peyton Manning, of the Indianapolis Colts, looks to hand off during the Pro Bowl on Sunday in Honolulu. The AFC won 38-27 and Manning was named MVP. See story on Page 25.



**Browns dump veteran
QB Garcia after
one season, Page 30**

Report:
NHL ready
to cancel

News conference scheduled
Tuesday to call off season

BY IRA PODELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — With no miracle save in sight and a weekend deadline long gone, the NHL made plans for a news conference Tuesday to cancel what little remained of a season already decimated by a lockout.

A public relations executive, speaking on the condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press that planning was under way Monday for NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman to make the announcement at a news conference in New York.

The Canadian Press, citing an unidentified source, said Bettman will cancel the season at the news conference.

The NHL would become the first major professional league in North America to cancel an entire season because of a labor dispute. This would mark the first time the Stanley Cup was not awarded since a flu epidemic canceled the finals in 1919.

Asked about The Canadian Press report, NHL spokesman Frank Brown said the league had no immediate comment.

After vowing not to reach out to each other after two days of talks broke off Thursday, the sides met Sunday at the request of a high-ranking federal mediator. Neither Bettman nor players' association executive director Bob Goodenow attended.

But that round of talks in Washington was also unsuccessful, with both sides saying that no progress was made.

Neither side has been willing to budge on the salary-cap issue — the NHL has said it is necessary in any new deal, and the players' association has rejected it as a solution.

NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly was joined Sunday at the five-hour meeting by outside counsel Bob Battersman, with players' association senior director Ted Saskin and outside counsel John McCambridge on the other side.

The sides were assisted by mediators twice before, as recently as a Feb. 2 negotiating session in Newark, N.J. Sunday's meeting was requested by Scot B. Beckenbaugh, the acting director of the U.S. Federal Mediation & Conciliation Service.

Neither side thought mediation would help end the stalemate that has lasted five months.

The lockout reached its 152nd day Monday, a day after the NHL was to hold its All-Star game in Atlanta.

Bettman said the sides needed to start putting a deal on paper by the weekend if the NHL was going to hold a 28-game season and a 16-team playoff.

SEE NHL ON PAGE 27

**Lefty gets it right
again, becomes
first wire-to-wire
champ of Pebble
Beach Pro-Am**

Page 29



**Malone retires
after 19
seasons with
no title,
promising 'no
unbelievable
comebacks'**

Page 30



**Coaches say
Far East Wrestling
Tournament
wide open**

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